

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND MARGARET MILLER RENSCH

RENSCH FAMILY HISTORY

HARLEY'S RENSCH FAMILY

MEMOIRS OF RAYMOND

MEMOIRS OF HERMIT

MEMOIRS OF DORIS

Compiled by

MEMOIRS OF VIRGINIA

Carolyn Rensch Cripe

MEMOIRS OF ELEANOR

2004

MEMOIRS OF BETTY JUNE

FAMILY GROUP SHEETS (OF THE CHILDREN OF HARLEY & ELVA)

ALDRICH FAMILY

JACKMAN AND VAIL FAMILIES

FEW OF THE SHEETS FOR PHOEBE ALDRICH

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND MARGARET MILLER RENSCH

WILLIAM RENSCH

HARLEY RENSCH FAMILY

MEMOIRS OF RAYMOND

MEMOIRS OF KERMIT

MEMOIRS OF DORIS

MEMOIRS OF VIRGINIA

MEMOIRS OF ELEANOR

MEMOIRS OF BETTY JUNE

FAMILY GROUP SHEETS (OF THE CHILDREN OF HARLEY & ELVA)

ALDRICH FAMILY

JACKMAN AND VAIL FAMILIES

PEDIGREE SHEETS FOR PHOEBE ALDRICH

INTRODUCTION

This is an attempt to summarize the information I have collected from various sources about the ancestry and life of my grandfather, Harley Rensch. I anticipate that in the next year I will put together a similar work about my grandmother, Elva Evertts Rensch and her family history.

I cannot guarantee that this information is error-free. In my view, studying family history is not something that is ever "finished." More information is constantly being made available in libraries and on the Internet. Perhaps it would be better if I had produced a work that is more fully referenced footnoted, etc., but it appears unlikely that such a work will be done by me. I want to share now the information I have, rather than depending on someone else to sort out all the photocopies, notebooks, etc. after my death.

Betty Rensch McCollum had the foresight to request her siblings (with the exception of Howard who had already passed away) to write about their lives, and the inclusion of this material gives a more personal touch to this work. The memoirs of Doris Harter Rensch and Eleanor Miller Rensch are also included. I have taken the liberty of saving part of Betty's and Virginia's memoirs for the Evertts/Everts/Evarts compilation. And having brought that up, let me point out that the surname of Elva's family was not Everett or Everetts. Her immigrant ancestor was John Evarts, and none of her forbears were illiterate. Several generations later, the spelling of the name in some lines of the family seemed to flipflop between Evarts and Everts. According to the story my father told me, the 2nd "t" was added in an attempt to prevent confusion in mail delivery.

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND MARGARET RENSCH, IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICA

According to my Great Great Aunt Salina Rensch Bell, her parents, John and Margaret Miller Rensch, immigrated to this country in 1834. She did not specify as to the name of the ship or the port through which they entered, and I have not yet been able to find that information. According to John's obituary, he and Margaret embarked for America in 1834. In fact, their eldest son, Conrad, was supposed to have been born in 1835, in Germany. If that is correct, then the 1834 immigration date cannot be correct. Nor have I yet found when and where John Rensch was naturalized. Their eldest daughter, Mary, is supposed to have been born in Pennsylvania in 1837. Either the record of their entry into the United States or the record of John's naturalization could solve this problem.

The surname, Rensch, is supposed to have been derived from the name of a saint, Laurence. One may find it spelled "Rench" or "Wrench," as well as "Rensch." Another spelling to look for in older records is "Reusch," because a handwritten "n" may sometimes be read (and copied) as a "u." I believe that "Renz" and "Rentsch" are also forms of the same name, though "Renz" is probably not a German form. There was a Peter Rench or Rensch who immigrated in the 18th century, and his descendants still spell their name as Rench. As far as I know, we are not connected to this family, unless there was a connection back in Germany.

As an aside, I did once meet Aunt Salina when I was a child. She came to Indiana to visit relatives and stayed, as I recall, with some of the Bells, her husband's family. She seemed incredibly old - after all, my grandfather's *aunt*. If only I had known then that I should have asked her copious questions and written down her answers!

According to Aunt Salina, John was born February 2, 1813, in Carahessin, Germany, and Margaret was born August 8, 1815, also in Carahessin. As a child, I searched the map of Germany, in vain, for Carahessin. After I had studied some German language, I could see that "Carahessin" was an anglicized version of a German name, probably Kurhessen. Later census

information of John Rensch gives his place of birth as Hesse Cassel. Indiana, September 26, 1830, the following information was recorded for John Rensch:

This is an area, not a town or village. John and Margaret emigrated from Germany soon after their marriage.

The first real "sighting" of John & Margaret is in the 1840 Census. They were in Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania. I am enclosing a copy of that census. I was at first confused, because one of the boys enumerated was older than their eldest son, Conrad, born September 9, 1835. I am now sure that this is the correct identification of this family, and will explain why in the section on Nicholas Rensch.

I have been to the York County Archives to look at microfilm records for John Rensch. I looked at land record indexes and did not find him, so, presumably, he did not own land there. I also looked at the tax lists for Paradise Township for several years, including before and after 1840, without finding him, or any other Rensch. All I can think is that they were enumerated in the census while traveling through on their way somewhere else. (I had hoped to find land records, because these records often tell where the people had lived previously. I am not going to state positively that there is nothing about John and Margaret Rensch recorded in York County - I admit that I was in a hurry when I searched, and when I had finished with these 2 sources, I could not think of any other kind of record to search.

At least one of their sons, our ancestor William, was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, in 1844. I did not find land records for John Rensch in Tuscarawas County, either. Nor did I find naturalization records there. There was a man named John Rentsch who was naturalized there later and who owned land, but he was from Switzerland.

In the 1850 census, the family was in Troy Township, DeKalb County, Indiana. John was not enumerated with the family; I have often wondered why. Was he just not at home? Or was he in another state? Anyway, their surname was spelled Wrench by the census taker. There were 10 children, Conrad having been born in Germany, Mary in Pennsylvania, 5 having been born in Ohio, and 3 in Indiana.

However, in 1850, as well as in 1860 and 1870, the government also

conducted an agricultural census. In Troy Township, DeKalb County, Indiana, on September 26, 1850, the following information was recorded for John "Wrench:"

John had 20 acres of improved land and 20 acres of unimproved land the total value of this land was \$300.

The value of his farming implements and machinery was \$10.

He had 2 milch (yes, that's how they spelled it) cows, 2 working oxen, 4 other cattle, 6 sheep and 6 swine. The value of the livestock was \$90.

He had 40 bushel of wheat and 17 pounds of wool.

He had 5 bushels of Irish potatoes and 50 pounds of butter

He had 1 ton of hay and 150 pounds of maple sugar.

The value of their home-made manufactures was \$5, and the value of the animals slaughtered was \$9.

The Rensch family, including John, was still in Indiana for the 1860 census, but Conrad, and possibly Catherine, were married and out on their own. In 1861, John and Margaret sold their Indiana property (40 acres for \$600) to John Robinette. An interesting sidelight is that the Justice of the Peace who witnessed this transaction was Gilbert C. Everts, another of our ancestors.

Although they sold the farm in 1861, Salina gives the date of July 6, 1864 for their move to Grundy County, Missouri. I don't know where they lived between the two dates. It is possible that some arrangement was made for them to continue to live on the Indiana farm until the move, as the new owners were the John Robinettes, their neighbors and the parents of Conrad's wife. Many of their children moved with them. Margaret died in 1882, while John lived until December 11, 1899.

I once asked my grandfather, Harley, about his grandfather (I wish I had had sense enough to ask about his father, also). He said that he had seen his grandfather only once, and that he was an old man with white hair, and he had

such a thick "brogue" that it was very difficult to understand him.

Information from his obituary indicates that he was a member of the Lutheran church in Germany. At some point, he was a Methodist, and finally a member of the Presbyterian church. These changes were not from a rejection of any sect's dogma, but because, as a frontiersman, he attended the church that was near.

Nicholas Rensch

I first came upon this person, Nicholas Rensch, in a transcription of the John Rensch family in the 1870 census for Marion Township, Grundy County, Missouri. It listed John, age 57, Margaret, age 5_, Levi, age 17, Selina, age 10, and Nicholas, age 40. John's occupation was listed as "farmer"; Margaret was "keeping house"; Levi was "at home"; no occupation was given for Selina or Nicholas.

Since I had seen no other information about Nicholas, I gave him no further thought at this time. Later, when I was trying to find information on the Internet about my father's (Raymond) Uncle Nick, I came across Nicholas again (but not Uncle Nick). In the 1880 DeKalb County, Indiana census, Nicholas Rensch, a tailor, was head of a household in Butler, Indiana, although he was single. Living with him was his widowed niece, Anna Waite, a tailoress, her son, Burley, and Nicholas' youngest niece, Salina, who "helped in the shop."

This information was very helpful, as it indicated Nicholas' place in the Rensch family. Nicholas died the next year, 1881, and is buried in the Butler Cemetery. I have not yet been able to find any information about his tailor shop, or his obituary. The microfilm of the Butler newspapers held at the genealogy library in Auburn do not go back far enough.

In 1862, a roll was made of the able-bodied white male citizens between 18 and 45 years of age, of Troy Township, DeKalb County, Indiana. William, Conrad, and John Rensch were listed as farmers. Henry Rensch was a carpenter. And Nicholas Rensch, aged 28, was a tailor, and exempt because he was deaf. I think we can assume that Nicholas was profoundly deaf, and

dumb, as well. He probably read lips and used sign language, although he may have learned to speak aloud. If he did speak, understanding him would have been difficult.

I had wondered why John and Margaret Rensch came to this country when they did. There were other Germans immigrating, but there were not the great numbers of them that there were at times when there was a great deal of unrest abroad. Now I wonder if they came in order to give John's disadvantaged little brother a chance at a better life.

This also clarifies the Rensch information in the 1840 Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania. Nicholas would have been the little boy who was too old to be the son of John and Margaret.

I don't believe that my father (Raymond) knew of this person, and Aunt Betty seems not to have heard of him, either. It is possible that more information may eventually become available. I would like very much to see an obituary for him, hoping that it would include the place of his birth and the names of his parents. John's obituary includes neither, except to say that he was born in Germany.

On the following pages are family charts for the John and Margaret Rensch family and photocopies of such documentation as I have.

I have already mentioned my Great-great Aunt Salina Rensch Bell as a source of information. I am also deeply indebted to a very distant cousin in Canada, Marie Bruner, who has shared information with me. Marie is actually related to us through the Haynes family, but her husband, Merle, was a descendant of Conrad Rensch, eldest son of John and Margaret Rensch. Marie had obtained a great deal of information from John Rensch, a descendant of Levi Rensch. At the time of their correspondence, John still lived on the Rensch family farm in Missouri.

My father told me that according to his father, Salina's older siblings told her that her mother, Margaret, had been a Russian slave. It seemed far fetched to Dad, but I am including it as a bit of oral history, in which there may be a grain of truth. Serfdom was still a way of life in Russia, so if her family had ever lived there, that might explain the story.

Husband: John Rensch

Born: February 02, 1812	in: Kurhessen, Germany
Married: 1833	in: Germany
Died: December 11, 1899	in: Grundy County, Missouri

Wife: Anna Margaret Miller

Born: 1816	in: Germany
Died: July 16, 1882	in: Grundy County, Missouri

CHILDREN

1	Name: William Rensch Born: March 07, 1844 Died: July 25, 1912 Married: September 09, 1866 Spouse: Phoebe Aldrich	in: Tuscarawas County, Ohio in: DeKalb County, Indiana in: Steuben County, Indiana
M		
2	Name: Conrad Rensch Born: September 29, 1834 Died: 1918 Married: Spouse: Hannah Robinette Married: June 05, 1870 Spouse: Lucy Blake	in: Hesse Cassel, Germany
M		
3	Name: Mary Elizabeth Rensch Born: October 24, 1836 Died: August 25, 1917 Married: February 22, 1859 Spouse: Isaac J. Jennings	in: Ohio in: Grundy County, Missouri in: Butler, Wilmington, DeKalb, Indiana
F		
4	Name: Henry Rensch Born: September 24, 1838 Died: August 19, 1881 Married: Spouse: Sarah Zimmerman Married: November 05, 1873 Spouse: Hattie Powers	in: Ohio
M		
5	Name: Katherine Rensch Born: March 24, 1840 Died: August 17, 1874 Married: Spouse: _____ Casebeer	in: Ohio
F		
6	Name: Anna Rensch Born: July 24, 1842 Married: Spouse: Richard Waite	in: Ohio
F		
7	Name: John Rensch, Jr. Born: October 17, 1842 Married: Spouse: Harriett Cornell	
M		
8	Name: Rufena Rensch Born: November 30, 1845 Died: December 03, 1926 Married: January 10, 1867 Spouse: Benjamin Franklin Zimmerman	in: Council Bluffs, Iowa in: Alpha, Missouri
F		
9	Name: Peter Rensch Born: September 15, 1847 Married:	
M		

Family Group Sheet

9

Spouse: Martha

M

10

Name: George Rensch

Born: April 07, 1850

Died: June 12, 1933

Married: February 08, 1876

Spouse: Ida Alice Blake

in: Indiana

in: Springfield, Greene, Missouri

in: Galt, Grundy, Missouri

M

11

Name: Levi Rensch

Born: May 02, 1853

Died: September 21, 1926

Married: December 02, 1875

Spouse: Mary Catherine Zimmerman

in: DeKalb County, Indiana

in: Laredo, Missouri

in: St. Joseph County, Indiana

M

12

Name: Salina Rensch

Born: December 19, 1859

Died: 1949

Married:

Spouse: James W. Bell

in: DeKalb County, Indiana

in: Council Bluffs, Iowa

F

CERTIFICATE,
No. 25,644

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS John Mench of Mc Kean County, Indiana

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Fort Wayne

whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said

according to the provisions of the

Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for

the North East Quarter of the North West Quarter of Section Twenty in Township Thirty five North, of Range Fifteen East, in the District of Lands Subject to Sale at Fort Wayne, Indiana, containing Thirty acres

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said John Mench

NOW KNOW YE, That the

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said John Mench

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said John Mench

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, James K. Polk

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the First day of June
in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the

BY THE PRESIDENT:

By

RECORDER of the General Land Office.



Will of John Rensch

'now all men in these presents — that I John Rensch of Grundy
county, State of Missouri being of sound mind do make this my last
will and testament. After all my debts and expenses are paid, I wish
my property to be divided equally with my children, excepting my son George
Rensch, my son, and I bequeath to him one dollar. I want my farm ren-
till the rents pays all my debts of every character. Then the heirs aforesaid
excepting George Rensch shall then sell the farm and divide the money or if
an divide the farm satisfactory, this I leave to their option. I appoint no
administrator or executor to this, my will. — Thomas Rensch
We attest the above and foregoing will by subscribing our names hereto as wi-
tnesses in the presence of John Rensch the testator — this 15th day of August 1894

J. C. Rinker

J. P. Thomas

Proof of will

State of Missouri — in the Probate Court

County of Grundy — Be it remembered that on this the 23rd day of
January A.D. 1900 before me, A. B. Crooks, Judge of the Probate Court held in and for
county and state aforesaid, personally appear J. C. Rinker and J. P. Thomas who
the subscribing witnesses to the annexed will of John Rensch, deceased, and being
me first duly sworn — and say that the said John Rensch the testator, subscri-
ed the same in their presence and published and declared said will or instrument
writing to be his last will and testament and that at the time, signing the same
John Rensch the said testator was of sound and disposing mind and more
more than twenty-one years of age and that since deponents attested said will a
witness thereto by subscribing their names to the same in the presence of the testator
and of each other and at the request of the said testator.

J. C. Rinker

J. P. Thomas

Sworn and subscribed before me A. B. Crooks, Judge of the Probate Court, the
day of January A.D. 1900

A. B. Crooks

Judge of Probates

State of Missouri ~~~ County of Grundy ~~~ In the Probate Court
at, A. B. Crooks, Judge of the Probate Court of Grundy County, State
of Missouri, having examined the foregoing instrument purporting
to be the last will and testament of John Hensch, deceased and signed by John
Hensch and having heard the testimony of J. C. Linker and J. F. Thomas
swearing witnesses thereto in relation to the execution of the same do
declare and adjudge said instrument to be the last will and
testament of the said John Hensch deceased, late of Grundy County, Missouri,
and the same is hereby admitted to Probate. In testimony whereof I have
hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court at office in
Trenton, Missouri, this 23rd day of January, 1900.

A. B. Crooks

Judge of Probate

Warranty Deed John Rench To John Robinette
Recorded Feb. 22, 1861 S.W. Widney, Recorder

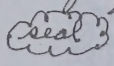
By this deed Mr. John Rench and Margaret Rench, wife of said John Rench of De Kalb county in the state of Indiana, convey and warrant to John Robinette of De Kalb county in the state of Indiana for the sum of six hundred Dollars the following Real Estate in De Kalb county in the state of Indiana, to wit: the North East fourth of the North West quarter of section seventeen of Township number thirty-five, north of Range fifteen East, containing forty acres more or less. In witness whereof the said John Rench and Margaret Rench wife of said John Rench have heresunto set their hands and seals this tenth day of September A.D. 1860

John Rench 
Margaret ^{his} Rench 
mark

attest - Gilbert C. Everts, Justice

State of Indiana, De Kalb county Set {

Before me Gilbert C. Everts a Justice of the Peace in and for said county personally came John Rench and Margaret Rench wife of said John Rench and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing deed.

Witness my hand and seal this tenth day of September 1860.
Gilbert C. Evert, Justice 

John Rench sold his land to John Robinette. Their children - Henna Robinette and Conrad Rench married. Renschers all moved to Mass.
John (gr gr grandfather) received six hundred dollars for his forty acres of land. 1861

2578

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

Trenton, Mo.

September 10

1866

Received of

John R. Rensch

Twenty Eight

Dollars and

78

Cents, in full of

his

State, County, and Military Tax, levied against him for the year 1866, including the following described Real Estate, to wit:

ACRES.	PARTS OF SECTIONS.	SECTION.	TOWNSHIP.	RANGE.
80	Sec 12 & 13	26	6d	23
80	Sec 12 & 13	"	"	"
40	Sec 12 & 13	24	"	"
20	Sec 8 & 12	36	"	"
10	Sec 8 & 12	"	"	"
Including personal property of said Tax payer				

Arillo Motely

Collector Grundy County, Mo.

of an old family Bible
The many families have
been

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.

DEATHS.

Henry Kensch
was born Sept 24th 1838

Sarah A. Zimmerman
was born Nov 21st 1840

Sarah A. Kensch
Died Oct. 23rd 1872
Henry Kensch
Died August
19th 1881.

FAMILY RECORD.

MARRIAGES.

MARRIAGES.

Henry Kensch
Sarah A. Zimmerman

were joined in

marriage Feb 22nd 1861.

Henry Kensch,
and
Hattie A. Towers
were married
Nov 5th 1873,

Copied from volume
of an old family Bible

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.

DEATHS.

Viola A. Rensch

was born Dec 25th 1861

Ulysses S. Rensch

born July 20th 1863

Estancia S. Rensch

born Mar 30th 1866

Olivia Maude Rensch

was born May 7th 1868

Henry A. Rensch

was born Feb 11th 1876

Charence T. Rensch

was born Jan
20th 1878

Viola A. Rensch

Died Apr 28th 1862

Ulysses Rensch

Died Jan 8th 1920

Died Sept 1st 1946

Henry A. Rensch

Died May 25 1943

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.

Harriet A Powers
Rensselaer Dix
Apr 10th 1839

Myron Henry Rensselaer
Born Dec 12th 1900

DEATHS.

Harriet A Powers
Nov 9th 1932

Myron Henry Rensselaer
Died June 11th 1944

Castius Rensselaer
Died Sept 25th 1942

Grand Children	2	2
Conrad Rensch	2	2
Mary Gimmman ^{Lehmann}	6	3
Kate Gaseber	3	2
Henry Rensch	3	
John Rensch	3	1
Amir Shaffer	1	
George Rensch	5	
William Rensch	7	1
Peter Rensch	3	
Fena Gimmman	5	1
Levi Rensch	3	
	41	10

Jan 21 1893.

John Rensch
Grand Pa

From family bible

Great Grand Children

	L	D
Ida Bruner	5	
Wilissus Rensch	1	
Lora Winn	2	
Etta Spriggs	4	1
Lora Parker	1	
	13	1

Familien Register.

Geburten

Stirben

George Rensch was
born April $\frac{7}{th}$ A.D. 1850.

Levi Rensch was born
May $\frac{2}{th}$ A.D. 1853.

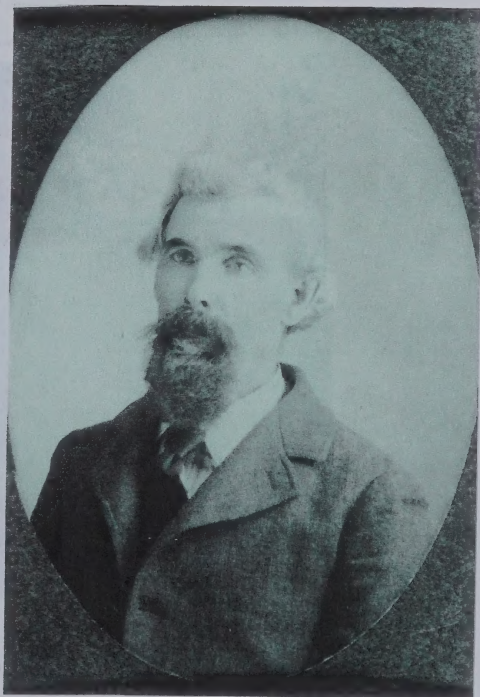
Seline Rensch was born
December $\frac{19}{th}$ A.D.
1855.

Note on Portraits on Opposite Page --

Very likely most of you recognize the young Harley Rensch in the lower left picture, and perhaps you also recognize his father, William Rensch, in the lower right. The gentleman in the upper picture is William's father, John Rensch, the immigrant ancestor. This portrait is in the possession of John Rensch of Laredo, Missouri. As far as I know there is no portrait of Margaret Miller Rensch.

Note on Gravestones --

Margaret's name is engraved as "Margaret Ann." I am not sure that this is correct. Aunt Salina thought she was "Mary Margaret." German naming custom seems to have been to use the second name instead of the first, so I would think that "Mary Margaret" is more likely to be correct than "Margaret Ann," although it is possible she had three names.





1996



1996

FAMILY RECORD.

Curtis Jennings Feb 10 1891

EASTERN STAR CHAPTER INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

Retiring Matron, Mrs. J. W. Bell, is Presented With Past Matron Jewel After Ceremony.

Nearly 100 members witnessed the installation of officers of the Council Bluffs chapter No. 41, Order of the Eastern Star, which took place Friday evening at the Masonic temple. The installing of officers was Mrs. C. E. Walters, and Mrs. G. H. Jackson acted as marshal.

Following the installation, Mrs. J. W. Bell, the retiring matron, was presented with a past matron jewel. Refreshments were served. Mrs. Bell, Mrs. J. C. Kretschmer and Mrs. Frank Egan presiding at the table. They were assisted by the young women of the chapter.

The following officers were installed:
Worthy Matron—Mrs. Lillie Hagens.
Worthy Patron—Frank Egan.
Associate Matron—Mrs. L. A. Gray.
Secretary—Mrs. H. W. Dodge.
Treasurer—Mrs. J. H. Mayne.
Conductress—Mrs. C. E. McIntosh.
Associate Conductress—Mrs. A. G. Bullock.

Chaplain—Mrs. C. A. Bailey.
Marshal—Mrs. A. H. Read.
Organist—Miss Rachel Maynard.
Aid—Mrs. Ralph Walters.
Father—Mrs. Harry Peterson.
Mother—Mrs. Marion Maynard.
Nurse—Mrs. L. Brown.
Elector—Mrs. Lynn Barris.
Warden—Mrs. G. M. Hoyt.
Sentinel—G. H. Jackson.

Another one of our friends called from our midst.

John Rensch, or better known as Grandpa Rensch, died Dec. 11, at a few minutes past 7 o'clock p.m., at his daughters home, Mrs. L. Jennings, who resides 2 1/2 miles southwest of Trenton. He had gone there but a couple of weeks before to spend the winter with her. Grandpa was born in Germany, Feb. 2nd 1812, was married in 1833 and in 1834 embarked for America. He settled in Indiana and afterwards came to Missouri, where he lived ever since. His wife died in 1882 and since then he has made home with his young son, Levi Rensch.

Eight children and a score of grandchildren are left to mourn their loss. His friends were many; he was grandpa to everybody in the country around where he lived.

About four years ago he had a stroke of paralysis, after which he was quite feeble; he never was able to get out by himself as he had done before. The second stroke came on early in the morning of the day he died.

He was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church at the time of his death. As long as his strength would allow, he attended church, and had been a faithful follower of Christ ever since he was 14 years old. He first joined the Lutheran church, then the Methodist, and later the Cumberland Presbyterian, there being no class of the others near. He was 87 years and 10 months old when he died.

Mrs. J. M. Bacon, presented his funeral grandpa had asked him to do if he ever lived him. He chose for his text: "One he saw our dead fathers are."

*1898-
Salem 10 Choph and 10 per
Mother Died July-26 1882*

OBITUARY

Mary Elizabeth (Rench) Jennings was born in Ohio Oct. 24, 1836, and died Aug. 25, 1917, aged 80 years, 10 months and 1 day.

She was married to Isaac J. Jennings at Butler, Ind., on Feb. 22, 1859. To this union were born ten children, three of whom died in infancy, and a fourth, Curtis, died at the age of 24 years. Those living are: Orlando G. of Trenton, Jake W. who resided with his aged mother till her death, Thaddeus B. who lives on a nearby farm, Mrs. Lona Wynn of Kansas City, Mo., Mrs. Cora Parker of Trenton and Mrs. Nettie H. Hatfield of Trenton.

Mrs. Jennings moved with her husband to Missouri in May, 1869, coming direct to Grundy county and has lived continuously on the farm where she died since 1875. She was preceded by her husband in death July 4th, 1902, but she continued to occupy the home place, her son, J. W., remaining with her till her death.

Mrs. Jennings, while yet a girl in Indiana, was converted and united with the Lutheran church. About twenty years ago she became a member of the Zion Baptist church and remained a devoted and faithful member of that church till her death.

Mrs. Jennings was a sweet-spirited, kind hearted christian lady and in her declining years she proved to all who knew her that one can grow gracefully old. She greeted everyone with a cheerful smile and her gentle modulated voice always spoke kind words which made one feel that the beauty and holiness of christian love had not perished from the earth.

Her home was always open to the pastor of Zion church, and it never was too dark or too cold or too rainy that she didn't send a closed rig for him if he could come to her home. The friendly, free hospitality of her home made one feel always welcome and the large host of friends who join with the family in mourning her loss witness the sacred memory in which her beautiful life will be held.

May the inspiration of her splendid life, as a wife, as a mother, as a christian and as a citizen have its way in the sad hearts of those who mourn and may it lift us to higher ground of vision and service.

James R. Wright.

serlains
and heard
customers
hem a trial
do not be
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PARÉIL—AUGUST 28, 1949.

Obituaries

Mrs. Salina Bell, OES Leader, Dies

Mrs. Salina Rensch Bell, 89, a resident of Council Bluffs for 60 years, died Saturday noon at a local hospital after an illness of two months. Mrs. Bell was born in Indiana before the civil war and came to Council Bluffs about 1889.

She was one of the organizers and a charter member of Council Bluffs chapter No. 441 of the Eastern Star and served as one of its early presidents. She was also a member of the Women's club and Past-Matrons' club.

Only survivors are distant relatives including a grand-nephew, Phillip Waite, and a grand-niece, Mrs. Donald P. Baird, both of Council Bluffs. Funeral will be Tuesday at 3:30 p. m. at Woodring's chapel with the Rev. J. R. Perkins officiating. Burial will be in Walnut Hill.

J. W. BELL DIES AT EXCELSIOR SPRINGS

PROMINENT LOCAL INSURANCE
MAN DIES OF PNEUMONIA
WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

ILL ONLY SHORT TIME

Fatal Disease Developed From At-
tack of Grip—Had Lived in
Council Bluffs Quarter of
Century.

J. W. Bell, member of the firm of J. R. Mulquh, insurance agents, died at Excelsior Springs, Mo., late Wednesday night, according to a telegram received at the office of the firm Thursday morning. With him at the time of his death were his wife and his partner, James T. Mulquh.

Mr. Bell was prominent in business circles of Council Bluffs. He had been in this city for about twenty-five years.

A week ago last Sunday Mr. Bell made a trip to Excelsior Springs. He was not ill at that time. Last Wednesday Mrs. Bell received a telegram from him, saying that he had had an attack of the grip and asking her to come to Excelsior Springs, but after a talk with him over the long-distance telephone she postponed her trip until Thursday. Sunday pneumonia developed and Tuesday he took a turn for the worse. He died Wednesday night.

Mr. Bell was about 63 years old at the time of his death. He was born in Ohio, but most of his early life was spent in Indiana. Before coming to Council Bluffs he had lived in Dunlap. When he first came to Council Bluffs he was in the employ of the Northwestern railroad, having been employed as a telegraph operator. Later he became a freight solicitor under the general agent.

He was married to Mrs. Bell in Indiana. He is survived by his widow.

GEORGE RENSCH

George Rensch, 83, a retired farmer who had lived in Springfield for the past 30 years, died at 10:20 a. m. this morning in the Springfield Baptist hospital after a short illness. Funeral arrangements are complete but the F. C. Thieme funeral home will be in charge, and burial will be in the Roberts cemetery near Cherry Crest.

He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Bird Dowlen of McKinney, Texas; Miss Vern Rensch of the same address; and Mrs. Artie Boyer of Mountain Grove; three sons, Alvin Rensch of Joplin, Norton Rensch of Springfield, and Melvin Rensch of Springfield; 11 grandchildren and one sister, Mrs. J. W. Rensch of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Trenton Times
21 Sep 1926
p. 1

LEVI RENSCH DIES SUDDENLY IN LAREDO

Prominent Laredo Citizen and Retired Farmer Passed Away After Short Illness.

Levi Rensch, one of Grundy county's most prominent residents and retired farmers, died at 1 o'clock Tuesday morning at his home in Laredo following a few hours illness. Mr. Rensch had been feeling as well as usual during the day, however when he returned home from down town about 4 o'clock in the afternoon he became seriously ill and his condition grew rapidly worse until the end. His death, according to the attending physician, resulted from an attack of the heart.

Mr. Rensch was 73 years old and had resided in the Laredo community practically all of his life, and was one of the most successful farmers in Grundy county. He resided on a farm south of Laredo until 1924 when he moved to the city of Laredo and has since that time been retired.

Mr. Rensch is survived by his widow, one daughter, Mrs. Nera Henderson, of Laredo; two sons, Troy, of the Robertson & Rensch Hardware store, Laredo, and Ernest a farmer residing near Laredo. He also leaves a wide circle of friends both in Laredo and Grundy county who will regret to hear of his death, as he was held in highest esteem by all who knew him. ~~as he was a~~ splendid citizen and will be missed by the entire community.

As yet no definite funeral arrangements have been made, but it is probable the services will be held Thursday afternoon.

Trenton Weekly Republican + Trib
30 Sep 1926 p. 6

LEVI RENSCH AT REST

Funeral Services For Pioneer Resident at Laredo.

Funeral services for Levi Rensch, pioneer resident of Grundy county, were held from the family home in Laredo this afternoon. Friends from Trenton who attended the rites were Mrs. John Ashby and Mrs. Alec Metcalf, together with Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Jennings, relatives of the late Mr. Rensch.

Mr. Rensch came to Missouri from Indiana, when a boy, settling near Laredo and taking an active part in the affairs of the community over a long period of years. Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons and one daughter, Mrs. Nera Henderson. The boys are Troy Rensch who operates a hardware, furniture and undertaking establishment in Laredo, and Ernest who operates the family farm east of Laredo.

East Side Prayer Circle

East Side Prayer Circle meet Friday afternoon with Mrs. Henry, East 10th street at 2:30. Everyone welcome.

WILLIAM RENSCH

William Rensch was born to John and Margaret Miller Rensch, March 7, 1844, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. He died July 25, 1912, of cancer of the stomach and liver. At the time of his death, my father, Raymond Rensch, was not yet 4 years old, so Raymond did not have many memories of William to pass down. In an oral history made at his senior daycare, Raymond said that he saw William only a few times. He remembered William's full beard and that he had a hearing problem due to the firing of artillery during the Civil War. Raymond also remembered that William brought bananas (probably a special treat) on a visit to the younger Rensch family. Raymond also said that Phoebe died young of diabetes.

I think that we can safely assume that William was born into a German-speaking family, and that English was his second language. Tuscarawas County, Ohio, was noted for its large German settlement. Perhaps his older brothers and sisters saw to it that William could speak English before he went to school. And that is another assumption, that he went to school. If he did, it was probably for only a few years.

According to William's Civil War pension file, he was 5 ft., 7 in. tall, had a light complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, and was a farmer. His hair is white in the photo of him that I have, but his beard is still dark.

William's Civil War Experience

The following information has been extracted from his Civil War pension file. You will find some of my comments added.

A summary of his army career written by a General Benjamin:

William Rensch, private - 21 Regt. Ind. Vols. (1st Hy Arty) enlisted Nov. 13, 1862 at Indianapolis, Ind. Deserted same place Dec. 62 (exact date not stated) - was arrested Aug. 25, 1863 in 10th Dist. Ind. And delivered to Mil Cmmdr. Indianapolis Ind. Aug. 27, 1863. Expenses of arrest \$4.92. He was

received at Indianapolis, Ind. August 27, 1863 and sent to Memphis Tenn. Date not stated - joined Co "L" Oct 15/63 at Baton Rouge La. The remarks on records of this company that the soldier was enrolled Oct 15/63 at Baton Rouge La is cancelled. On muster roll of Co. dated Oct. eq. 63 he is reported present. - Nov & Dec 63 absent - Left-sick at Baton Rouge, La. Dec 17, 63, and so borne to Apl 30/64 - May & June 64 present - and so borne to Oct 31/65. Return for Mch. 1865 does not report him absent sick or otherwise. On roll for Sept and Oct 1865 he is rept'd present. Returned from desertion Oct 24, 63 (my note: tear in paper is folded down over the rest of this line) Rouge, La, Jan'y of 66 with remark Deserted at Ft. Pickens, Fla Oct 15 1865. Voluntarily ret'd to Co. Oct 21/1865. (Illegible section) without trial. - per S.O. No./Nd. East Dist - La. Jan'y 2 1862 (6) No record of disabilities March 9, 1865.

On January 29, 1876, a "Declaration for Invalid Army Pension" form was filled out for William Rensch and witnessed by Simeon J. Aldrich and James E. Rose. The reason for the application is as follows: "that while in the service aforesaid and in the line of duty as a soldier near a place called Mobile in the State of Alabama, on the 9 day of March 1865, From heavy cannonading he became deaf in his right ear and from exposure contracted a general disability. He is broken down in health and constitution and suffers from said diseases and is partially unfit for manual labor." (My note: William would have been less than 32 years old when this was filed.)

Another form dated Feb. 25, 1881 (6 years later), includes this information: "We commenced to fire Heavy Artillery about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and kept it up for three hours, or about that time - and until blood was forced from eyes and ears. He further says the history of his military service is as follows" viz,

I enlisted at Batonrouge Louisiana, Oct 15, 1864. Was with my company four days and then went to the hospital with lung fever - and was in the hospital for three months. Then joined my company at New Orleans. Remained with the Co. 3 weeks then went to Hospital with chronic diarrhea(sic) for six weeks. Then went to Madjoridy Island in Texas, thence to New Orleans - had the typhoid fever - lay about four months - from thence to Mobile - thence to New Orleans and into the Hospital with chronic diarrhea - and remained there under the doctors care until we were sent to Indianapolis to be discharged. I think it was on the 15 day of February 1866"

Again, in March 1881:

“that he is unable to furnish an affidavit from any Physician as to treatment of him for disabilities contracted in said service from date of his discharge from same to the year 1879 for the following reason: viz

The physicians who treated me are gone away and I know not where except Dr. R. Morrison (sp?) of Hamilton, Ind. I sent you Dr. Bushel’s affidavit about the first of February, 1881.

I have no means of filling up the gap except by neighbors, which I here send you as desired -

He further herewith presents affidavits of credible neighbors as to the existence of and extend disabled by reason of said disabilities during said time and prays they be accepted in lieu of medical testimony.”

On September 9, 1882:

“that he is unable to furnish the testimony of one of the commissioned officers of his Company or of his comrades in said service as to the origin of his disabilities for the following reasons. Viz:

That he does not know of their whereabouts, that he has written letters to the post offices where they used to live but that said letters have been returned to him. That he has advertised in the Cincinnati Enquirer for information but gets no response.”

On the 22 of December 1885:

“that he was enlisted October 62 on or about the 15. But I did not know of the fact at the time when I left Indianapolis. I was there only one night and then I was told that I might go home and stay there after signing a paper what it was I don’t know. I came home and staid there till some time in January 63. Then I went to Laport Co. Ind. And staid there till some time in June 63 then I went home again and remained there till sometime in September of same year, and then I was on my back to Laport Ind. where I was at work and when I got as far as Kendallville Ind. There I was arrested and kept over night and sent to Indianapolis and kept there I think two days and then from there on down the Mississippi River till I reached Baton Rouge, La. There I enlisted in the 21st Ind Regiment and service two years and six month this is the truth just as I remember.”

(My note: This paper may be in his own handwriting - very little punctuation,

capitalization very odd - in neither German nor English style. When you consider his desertion, remember that he was an 18 year old boy from the country, in a big city. Furthermore, we don't know how well he read or how well he understood English. He may have misinterpreted what he was told. And I don't suppose the Army was any more efficient then than it is today. He may have been told to "go home" meaning for him to go back to the room where he was staying. I believe we can safely assume that if desertion was his goal, he would have traveled farther than either DeKalb or LaPorte county.)

On May 28, 1892 -

That he was late a member of Co."L"21st Regt. Ind. Vols. And he is an applicant for increase of pension on account of deafness of right ear (Now drawing \$10.00 for said disability by Ctf. 485,667) and he claims pension on chronic diarrhea, affection of lungs and rheumatism as formerly alleged, which claim he filed on the 18 day of July 1890. . ."

May 21, 1892 - in his handwriting, I think:

"that I cannot furnish medical evidence further back than to the year 1880 for the Reason the doctor that treated me medically after I came out of the service has refused to give me any affidavit of the kind. His name is Milligan he has no book record as I always paid him the cash. I ast him to give me such an affidavit in 1880 and he refused to do so he only treated from the last of February 66 till the middle of September 66. His address is Butler DeKalb Co. Ind.

Then I past in to Dr. John Brown of Alvarado, PO Steuben Co. Ind. And he is unable to give me any evidence on account of old age and infirmity. I further state that I never knew of the whereabouts of any comrades or any officers of Regiment."

Nov 15 1894 - very bad copy - almost illegible

"I first contracted diarrhea at Baton Rouge La . . . (I believe he names the regimental doctor who treated him for piles and diarrhea) . . . he shot himself at the hospital while I was under his care" . . . "and said diseases does still exist and . . . trobel me."

After The War

Although William Rensch was damaged by the war (as were a lot of other young men), at least he came home. That was more than could be said of the young man to whom Phoebe Aldrich had been engaged.

The Aldriches were an old New England family. Their immigrant ancestor was George Aldrich, and some of his descendants have been prominent people. Several books have been written about this family. Phoebe's mother was a Vail. The Vails had come from Long Island and New Jersey via Pennsylvania and had been Quakers.

Two sets of twins were born to William and Phoebe. The first set was Nick and Nora. Nora died, unmarried, at the age of 37, although Grandpa thought she had died much younger. The other set was Mary and an unnamed baby who was either stillborn or died at birth.

Phoebe's death at 45 years of age must have been a terrible blow for this family. The youngest child, Harley, was only 3 ½ years old. Phoebe would have sewn, gardened, preserved food, possibly kept chickens, maybe more, since William was not in good health, as we have learned from his pension application. I believe he may have lost his farm.

David married Margaret Omstead, who already had a daughter. He never had a child of his own. His farm was located on the northeast corner of the Alvarado crossroads.

Lydia married Charles Hoffinan. They moved to North Dakota where they raised a family of four children, Lee, Paul, Nola and Russell. Lee moved back to the Midwest, and he and his wife, Florence, lived in Jackson, Michigan for many years. Their only daughter, Maurine, married Lyle MacArthur.

Nick married Libby, and they had a daughter, named Wanda. I do not know if Wanda married. Nick and Libby lived in Michigan, somewhere near Three Rivers, I believe.

Mary married Jay Skelton. They had one daughter, Audrey, who married

APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT.

(This application, when properly executed before some officer having authority to administer oaths for general purposes, should be forwarded, together with the pension certificate and itemized bills of all expenses, to the Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D. C.)

STATE OF Ohio } ss:
COUNTY OF Williams

On this 12th day of August, A. D. one thousand nine hundred and Twelve,
personally appeared before me a Notary Public within and for the County and State aforesaid,
Mary Skelton, aged 29 years, a resident of
St Joseph Township, County of Williams, State of
Ohio, who, being duly sworn according to law, makes the following declaration in order
to obtain reimbursement from the accrued pension for expenses paid (or obligation incurred) by claimant for the last sickness
and for the burial of William Reusch, who was a pensioner of the United States by
certificate No. 485667, on account of the service of William Reusch
in Co. E. 1st Regt and Vol. H. at (Name of soldier or sailor.)
(Describe service by company and regiment, etc., if in the Army, or by the words U. S. Navy, if in the Navy.)

That pension was last paid to May 4th, 1912, by the U. S. Pension Agent at
Indianapolis

That the answers to questions propounded below are full, complete, and truthful to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and that no evidence necessary to a proper adjustment of all claims against the accrued pension is suppressed or withheld.

1. What was the full name of the deceased pensioner?

William Reusch

2. In what capacity was decedent pensioned? (As invalid soldier or sailor, or as a widow, minor child, dependent relative, etc.)

Invalid Soldier

3. If decedent was pensioned as an invalid soldier or sailor—

(a) Was he ever married? (Answer yes or no.) yes

(b) How many times, and to whom? once

Miss Phoebe Aldrich

(c) If married, did his wife survive him? (Answer yes or no.) no

(d) If so, is she still living? (Answer yes or no.) no

(e) If not living, give full names and dates of death of all wives Phoebe Aldrich,
August 8, 1889

(f) Was he ever divorced? (Answer yes or no.) no

(g) If so, is the divorced wife still living? (Answer yes or no.) _____ (If living, a copy of the decree of divorce must be filed.)

(h) If not living, give her full name and the date of her death Phoebe Rensch
Died August 8, 1889

4. Did pensioner leave a child under 16 years of age? (Answer yes or no.) no

5. Is any such child still living? (Answer yes or no.) no

6. Was there insurance (life, accident, or health) in force on life of pensioner at time of death? (Answer yes or no.) no

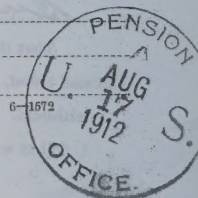
7. If so, give the name of each company in which a policy was carried and the amount in which each policy was written

8. Who was the beneficiary named in each policy?

9. What was the relation of each beneficiary to the pensioner?

10. Were the premiums paid by the deceased pensioner?

11. If not paid by the deceased pensioner, state the amount of premiums paid by each person who made payment on that account



12. Was pensioner a member of any society paying sick or death benefits? (Answer yes or no.) *no.*
13. Is there an executor or administrator, or will application be made for appointment of any person as administrator? *yes*
14. Did the deceased pensioner leave any money, real estate, or personal property? *no.*
15. If so, state the character and value of all such property _____
16. What was the assessed value (last assessment) of the real estate? _____
17. How was the pensioner's property disposed of? _____
18. Did pensioner leave an unindorsed pension check? (Answer yes or no.) *no.*
19. What was your relation to the deceased pensioner? *daughter.*
20. Are you married? (Answer yes or no.) *yes*
21. What was the cause of pensioner's death? *Cancer of Stomach & Liver*
22. When did the pensioner's last sickness begin? *Oct 7, 1911*
23. From what date did the pensioner become so ill as to require the regular and daily attendance of another person constantly until death? *Oct 7, 1911*
24. Give the name and post-office address of each physician who attended the pensioner during last sickness *Dr. Brandon*
Dr. F. Eddow Ohio,
25. State the names of the persons by whom the pensioner was nursed during the period or any portion of the period of last sickness and the period covered by such service in each instance *Jay H. Skelton,*
Mary Skelton.
Period of 30 days from Oct 7 - 25 July
26. Where did the pensioner live during last sickness? *Eddow Ohio.*
27. Where did the pensioner die? *at his daughter's Mrs J. H. Skelton*
28. When did the pensioner die? *July 25 - 1912*
29. Where was the pensioner buried? *G. Earnad Cemetery,*

Has there been paid, or will application be made for payment to you or any other person, any part of the expenses of the pensioner's last sickness and burial by any State, County, or municipal corporation? (Answer yes or no.) no

31. State below the expenses of the pensioner's last sickness and burial. Write the word *none* where no charge is made in case of any item of expense noted.

(Each charge entered below should be supported by an itemized bill of the person who rendered the service or furnished any supplies for which reimbursement is demanded, and should show, over his signature, by whom paid, or who is held responsible for payment, and contain the name of the pensioner for whom the expense was incurred or service rendered.)

NAMES.	NATURE OF EXPENSES.	STATE WHETHER PAID OR UNPAID.	AMOUNT.
E. F. Brandon	Physician	unpaid	\$50 00
	Medicine	none	
L. H. Skelton	Nursing and care	unpaid	75 00
Fred M. Swift.	Undertaker	unpaid	00 00
	Livery		
	Cemetery		
	Other expenses and their nature:		
	TOTAL		225 00

32. Is the above a complete list of all the expenses of the last sickness and burial of the deceased pensioner? (Answer yes or no.) yes

That my post-office address is No. _____, on _____ street,
town or city of Edon, County of William,
State of Ohio; R.F.D. #1

(When the claimant for reimbursement is a married woman, she is required to sign the application with her own full name, not using the Christian name or the initials of her husband, and all bills should be receipted to her in her own name.)

Mrs Mary Skelton.
(Chairman's signature in full.)

Also personally appeared D. J. Bowersox
 and Etta Bowersox, persons whom I certify to be respectable and
 entitled to credit, and who, being by me duly sworn, say that they were present and saw Mrs Mary
Skelton, the claimant, sign her name (or make _____ mark)
 to the foregoing application, and that they know the claimant therein; that they have read all the questions, answers, and
 declarations in said application and believe the facts therein set forth to be true; and that they have no interest, direct or
 indirect, in this claim.

D. J. Bowersox
Etta Bowersox
Edon Ohio R F D # 1
Edon Ohio R F D # 1
 (Signatures and post-office addresses of witnesses.)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of August,
 A. D. 1917; and I certify that the contents of the foregoing application, etc., were fully made known and explained to the
 claimant and witnesses before swearing, including the words _____
 erased and the words _____ added; and
 that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

Samuel Fritz
 (Signature)
Notary Public
 (Official character.)

STATEMENT OF ATTENDING PHYSICIANS.

Give date of the pensioner's death July 20 - 1912
 Give date of commencement of pensioner's last sickness October 7 - 1911
 From what date did the pensioner require the regular and daily attendance of another person constantly until death?
October - 7 - 1911
 During what period did you attend the pensioner? From October 10 - 1911
 State nature of disease from which pensioner died Carcinoma of Liver and
Stomach.

Give name of each person who rendered service as nurse, and who has made or will make a charge for such service
Mr. Fay E. Sketton and Miss Mary Sketton
wife of Fay Sketton
 Give name of any other physician who attended the pensioner in last sickness

Does your bill include a charge for all medicine furnished the pensioner during last sickness? yes
 State whether you have read the questions in the foregoing application, and the claimant's answers thereto, and whether such
 answers are correct according to your best knowledge, information, and belief? yes

Mention any other facts within your knowledge which in your opinion would be helpful in adjusting this claim for reimbursement:

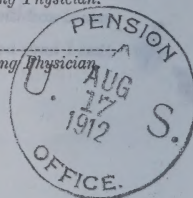
I certify that the foregoing statement is correct.

August - 8 -, 1912

E. F. Brandon

Attending Physician.

Attending Physician.



GENERAL AFFIDAVIT FOR ANY PURPOSE

3

SEE FOOT NOTE

STATE OF

COUNTY OF

Personally appeared William Reusch

and

of Hawillan P. O., County of Shutem

State of Indiana who, being duly sworn upon the oath

follows: that he was late a

member of Co. L 21st Regt Ind Vol.
and that he was enlisted October 20th 62
about the 15th But I did not know of the
fact at the time when I left Indianapolis
I was there only one night and then I was
told that I might go home and stay there
after signing a paper what it was I don't know
I came home and staid there till some time
in January 63 then I went to LaPorte, Co. Ind
and staid there till some time in June 63 then
I went home again and remained there till some
in September of same year, and then I was on my

he applicant, while under your observation, while the case is first officer before you this also state how they came to know the facts to

case. State how the disability is and how it has been n. If the applicant is disabled from labor state how the applicant should, if practicable, while out the statement;

Husband: William Rensch

Born: March 07, 1844
Married: September 09, 1866
Died: July 25, 1912
Father: John Rensch
Mother: Anna Margaret Miller

in: Tuscarawas County, Ohio
in: Steuben County, Indiana
in: DeKalb County, Indiana

Wife: Phoebe Aldrich

Born: 1844
Died: August 08, 1889
Father: David Aldrich
Mother: Mary A. Jackman

in: DeKalb County, Indiana

CHILDREN

1	Name: Harley Rensch	
	Born: January 27, 1886	in: DeKalb County, Indiana
M	Died: January 09, 1966	in: Steuben County, Indiana
	Married: January 30, 1907	
	Spouse: Elva May Evertts	
2	Name: David Rensch	
M	Married:	
	Spouse: Margaret Omstead	
3	Name: Lydia Rensch	
F	Married:	
	Spouse: Charles Hoffman	
4	Name: Nicholas Rensch	
	Born: 1876	
M	Married:	
	Spouse: Libby	
5	Name: Nora Rensch	
F	Born: 1876	
6	Name: Mary Rensch	
	Born: 1879	
F	Married:	
	Spouse: Jay Skelton	
7	Name: William Rensch	
M	Born: 1882	
	Died: 1913	

Husband: Harley Rensch

Born: January 27, 1886
 Married: January 30, 1907
 Died: January 09, 1966
 Father: William Rensch
 Mother: Phoebe Aldrich

in: DeKalb County, Indiana

in: Steuben County, Indiana

Wife: Elva May Evertts

Born: October 07, 1889
 Died: February 11, 1990
 Father: Joseph Walker Evertts
 Mother: Eunice Slentz

in: DeKalb County, Indiana

in: DeKalb County, Indiana

CHILDREN

M	1	Name: Raymond D Rensch Born: September 05, 1908 Died: February 02, 1999 Married: September 02, 1932 Spouse: Naomi Brugh Putt	in: Butler, DeKalb County, Indiana in: Angola, Pleasant, Steuben, Indiana in: Angola, Indiana
	2	Name: Bonnie Beatrice Rensch Born: March 23, 1907 Died: September 12, 1907	
	3	Name: Kermit Lendel Rensch Born: April 28, 1911 Died: May 31, 1996 Married: March 18, 1945 Spouse: Doris Harter	in: Kendallville, Noble County, Indiana in: Steuben County, Indiana
	4	Name: Virginia Dale Rensch Born: August 31, 1915 Married: December 21, 1941 Spouse: Hershel Cole	in: Hamilton, Indiana in: Angola, Indiana
	5	Name: Howard Guy Rensch Born: January 29, 1918 Died: October 14, 1975 Married: December 31, 1941 Spouse: Eleanor Miller	in: Hamilton, Indiana in: Angola, Indiana
F	6	Name: Betty June Rensch Born: June 20, 1921 Married: August 28, 1948 Spouse: John McCollum	in: Hamilton, Indiana in: Angola, Indiana

News from the COUNTY

HAMILTON NEWS

Mrs. Than Baker . . . Local Editor

Mrs. Frank Cameron is on the sick list.

Gerald Renner is home from a visit at Auburn.

Jay Leonard made a business trip to Topeka Tuesday.

E. E. Swaidner and family made an auto trip to Detroit.

Wm. Kiser and Samuel Eyster, of Edon, were here Wednesday.

Chas. McClish made a business trip to Ft. Wayne last Tuesday.

Wm. Scoville and wife made a business trip to Butler, Thursday.

Mrs. J. O. Campbell is on the sick list, as is also Mrs. Gilbert Hamman.

Mrs. Francis Lee, of Kansas, is the guest of her sister-in-law, Mrs. E. Burk.

Chas. Brown and wife, of Auburn, attended the funeral of Mrs. Wm. Fee, Wednesday.

Mrs. Ida Proctor, of Denver, Colorado, is the guest of Hamilton relatives and friends.

Robert and Byron Platt and their wives attended the show at Fort Wayne last Tuesday.

Mrs. Ella Farnum returned from Battle Creek last Saturday greatly pleased with her visit.

Miss Ella Lemmon, of Montgomery, is the guest of her aunt, Mrs. W. H. Keyes, and family.

Mrs. J. T. Cameron has Miss Emma Hunt, of Cleveland, an old and cherished friend, as a guest.

Mrs. G. R. Farnum, and we are told Mrs. Ted Crain, went to a Battle Creek sanitarium for treatment.

Dr. Frank Cameron and family enjoyed a visit from his brother, Dr. Wm. Cameron, of White Pigeon.

Hiram Doty and family, of Hudson, called on relatives here Sunday afternoon on their way to Enfield's park.

Earl Cook and family, of Bucyrus, Ohio, enjoyed a visit with his uncle, Wm. Cook and family and other relatives.

Chas. Lingle and wife accompanied his cousin, Earl Cook, and family, of Bryan, to Reading, Mich., for a visit.

dance at Sunday school at Enfield's park, but the afternoon services were attended by a vast throng of people from the country and towns roundabout.

George Carper, Mrs. Kate Luton, Mrs. Anna Langly and Mrs. Lucretia Gurtner received word from their brother, James Carper, at Nappanee, Thursday, to come at once as his wife could live but a short time. The first three went Friday.

Fred Oberlin, of whom former mention was made, is failing rapidly and doubts are entertained as to his recovery. His wife is under the care of the physician also. Their son Kyros and wife have them at their home and are tenderly ministering to their every want.

Tuesday of last week while Geo. Gnagy and "Gig" Russell were at work on Cameron's point, "Gig's" grubhoe came in contact with Mr. Gnagy's right arm, cutting a gash almost to the bone. He went to the home of his mother, got the arm dressed and laughed over the affair.

Alfonzo Vanzile, wife and baby son started with the "perfectly safe" horse for Edon last Thursday, when the horse became frightened at a calf, turned around, upsetting the buggy, throwing the occupants to the ground. Aside from a few bruises all escaped injury and the buggy was damaged but little.

Miss Rheba Helme is able to get about without her crutches. Several weeks ago while seated in the grand stand at Cold Springs, she saw her papa start to leave, and crying "I'll beat you, papa," sprang to the ground, tearing the ligaments loose in her right leg. It was a painful accident, but she bore it cheerfully.

Wm. Wrench, Sr., a former citizen of Otsego township, died Tuesday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mary Skelton, near Arctic, after an illness of a year or more with cancer of the stomach. He leaves seven children to mourn. Funeral services were held at the old Zion U. B. church on Saturday, at 10 o'clock. His wife preceded him about twenty-five years ago.

The many friends of Lennel Chapman condole with him in the pathetic death of his wife and child. The child was born Sunday morning and laid to rest in Hamilton cemetery Sunday evening. Mrs. Chapman died Tuesday and the remains were laid beside those of her babe on Thursday. She leaves a husband and three children and a host of friends to mourn their loss.

It is said that Gay Brown just escaped by about four inches of being

NORTH SCOTT

Mrs. Sherman Bebee is confined to her bed with sciatic rheumatism. Mrs. Jennie Cox spent part of last week with J. H. Elliotts near Clear lake.

James and Mark Champion, of Kalamazoo, are guests of their sister, Mrs. Hiram Beck.

Miss Gale Wilcox, of Chicago, is here spending a few weeks with her aunt, Mrs. Fred Weiss.

Robert Badger and wife and Mrs. Charles Badger spent Sunday with James Watters in Fremont.

Clyde Reed, of Fremont, and Miss Alma Reed, of South Bend, were Thursday guests of Chas. Gunn and wife.

Clifton Striker, of Berne, but at present attending college at Angola, was a week-end guest of John Barnes, Jr.

Miss Thelma Huffile returned to her home at Swanton, Ohio, Thursday, after spending a few weeks with her cousins, Marybelle Luce and Lena Elliott.

Hiram Beck and wife entertained on Sunday Mr. and Mrs. D. Moore, of Pleasant Lake, Chas. Clark, wife and family, of near Angola, and James and Mark Champion, of Kalamazoo.

Elder McCord, of the Angola Christian church, accompanied by Elder Griggs of the Fairview church, will preach at North Scott Sunday afternoon Aug. 4th, at 2 o'clock. It is hoped that all members and persons interested in church work will be present.

During the summer months, mothers of young children should watch for any unnatural looseness of the bowels. When given prompt attention at this time, serious trouble may be avoided. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy can always be depended upon. For sale by H. E. Kratz.

FLINT FINDINGS

Miss Golda Coleman is visiting in Sturgis.

Guy Barr is having his house and barn painted.

Miss Lois Redding, of Angola, is visiting Mrs. Dessie Hilton.

There will be no preaching services at the Christian church until September 1st.

Ben Liverance and Miss Belva Swanger were married at Angola, Wednesday, July 24, 1912, by Rev. Griggs.

Miss Ina Wilson, of Orland, and Bailey Crankshaw, of Ft. Wayne, spent Sunday with Blanche and Ora Bowerman.

Harley Rensch, 1886-1966

Harley Rensch was born January 27, 1886, to William and Phoebe Aldrich Rensch in DeKalb County, Indiana. His mother died August 8, 1889, at which time Harley would have been approximately 3½ years old. I understood from what he said that he did not remember very much about his mother. His sister, Mary, would have been about 10 years old at the time their mother died, and, apparently, Mary took over Harley's rearing.

I have seen Harley's name spelled variously as "Harla," "Harlow," and "Harlond."

According to my father (Raymond), Harley received only a 5th grade education, leaving school and going to work on a farm at the age of 12. He had completed the schooling was considered necessary in those days, and I will say that I never had any reason to consider him ignorant. My father passed on to me a story about Harley's first place of employment. After Harley had been working on the farm a week or two, William came to visit him. At the end of lunch, everyone wiped clean their plates (and, presumably, their flatware) and turned them upside-down to be used again at the next meal. William did not approve of this lack of sanitation and removed his son from that farm.

Harley once told me that in his youth he was considered a pretty good ice skater.

Most of what I know about the way Harley and Elva lived when they were young comes from stories told me by my father. They traveled by horse and wagon. Grandfather worked someone else's land and lived in a house on that land. He was paid very little (I will not venture to state an amount, as I can't remember for sure), but they had the house and garden. They were allowed to keep a cow for milk and were given a supply of such staples as meat, flour and salt.

For much of his life, Harley farmed the land of other men. There were different arrangements for this kind of operation and I don't know which he most used. At one time, he also worked on the railroad. However, the first

land he owned was the farm east of Angola on Highway 20.

For a time, Harley owned a motorcycle with a sidecar (this had to have been before the younger children were born), and the family traveled in this vehicle.

Harley and Elva lost their first child to disease while she was still a baby. Unfortunately, this was a fairly common occurrence in those days. I heard Grandma speak of her as Beatrice. I don't recall my grandfather mentioning her, but Aunt Betty says that he often did, calling her Bonnie. Her name was Bonnie Beatrice. Perhaps they couldn't quite agree on a name for her and compromised. Bonnie Beatrice was the only blue-eyed child they ever had. At the time of Bonnie's death, Harley and Elva bought a lot in the Hamilton Cemetery, and Bonnie was the first burial in that lot. The second was my infant brother, Lyle Harley Rensch. There is no marker for Lyle.

My father told me, apropos of his father leaving school after the 5th grade, that his father would have had him leave school after 8th grade, except that his mother wouldn't have it. Grandma's family was a mix of New Englanders and Germans, not so different from Grandpa's, but she had finished 8th grade herself, and was determined that her children would have as much education as possible. So their children all completed high school. My father went on to "normal school," the approximately 2 years of college considered sufficient to teach school at that time. Aunt Betty attended the one-year secretarial course given at Tri-State College. My Dad started his college education at Tri-State and finished it at Manchester College.

According to Aunt Betty, Grandpa's sister, Mary, was the person who thought that all that education was a big waste of time. She and her husband, who lived just down the road from Harley and Elva, had no sons, and it really irritated her to see those 2 "big boys" (Raymond and Kermit) going to school when they could be helping on the farms.

Harley died in Steuben County, January 7, 1966, and Elva died February 11, 1980.

The memoirs of Raymond, Kermit, Virginia and Betty give a good picture of what the adult lives of Harley and Elva were like.



Class picnic

The above photo is of the Alvarado Sunday School class while on an outing at Circle Park on Hamilton Lake in 1924. Lura (Sickles) Eddy and Erma (Robinet) Burch were able to identify most of the people in the picture. The included (front, from left) Marian Burrell, Emery Buell, John Aldrich, Charles Brooks, Deloy Robinett, Denver Robinett and Kermit Rensch; second row: a Mr. Tomecheck, Verald Teegardin, Paul Eyster, Carol Brandeberry, Elizabeth Omstead, Erma Robinett, Arthur Mann, Audra Gurtner and Merele Maler; third row: Rocsoe McCool, Hazel Locke, Waldo Mann, Lois Eyster, teacher Ora Eyster, Maliton Omstead, Maurice and William Kunkle; and fourth row: Raymond Rensch, Waldo McCool, Harold Locke, Elgie Kunkle, Elmer Buell and Preston Teegardin.

Photo submitted by Betty (Rensch) McCollum

A total of 2,400 persons, Michigan's first summer school, was held at the home of

Obituary
Bonnie Beatrice, beloved
daughter of Harlow and Elva
Rensch, born March 23rd 1907,
departed this life Sept. 12, 1907,
aged 5 months, 20 days.

The funeral services were con-
ducted at Joseph Everett's resi-
dence, Friday Sept. 13, Rev. C.
D. Marsh of Butler officiating.
Interment in Hamilton cemetery.

CARD OF THANKS

In this humble way we wish to
thank all who so kindly assisted
us during the sickness and burial
of our little one. Also the sing-
ers and for the beautiful floral
offering.

Mr. and Mrs. Harlow Rensch
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Everetts

To Whom it may concern.

Know all men by these presents, We the undersigned
Trustees of Hamilton Cemetery, who have been duly elect-
ed and qualified, in consideration of the sum of *Five Dollars*

in hand paid, this *14*th day of *September* 1907
have conveyed unto *Harley Rensch*
his heirs and assigns, the following described lot in the or-
iginal plat of Hamilton Cemetery as platted to-wit: No *247*
said ground to be used for such purposes as they are us-
ually used and no other purpose.

Given under our hands and seals this *14*th
day of *Sept-1*, A. D. 1907

B. C. Birnie

G. H. Cooper

J. W. Griffith

(Seal)

(Seal)

(Seal)

(Seal)

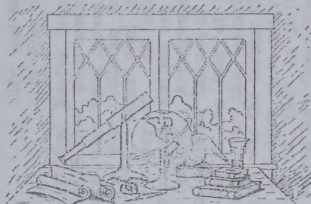
(Seal)

Trustee of
Hamilton
Cemetery.

"THE PRICE OF
WISDOM
IS ABOVE RUBIES"



IN MEMORY
OF
SCHOOL DAYS



HOULTON SCHOOL

District Number 1

Franklin Township, DeKalb County, Indiana

1921-1922

HELEN D. CARPENTER, Teacher

PUPILS

Raymond Rensch	Berniece Mock
Beatrice Mock	Kermit Rensch
Bruce Gurtner	William Shultz
Alice Hagerty	Berniece Houlton
Marguerite Carpenter	Cecil Vose
John Gurtner	Audry Berryhill
Henry Barnes	Floyd Berryhill
Leon Houlton	Henry Mock
Arden Vose	Lewis Houlton
John Mock	Melvin Shultz
Mabel Gurtner	Doris Hagerty
Etta Gurtner	Virginia Rensch
John Kogin	Harry Smith

William Potter, Trustee

Clarence L. Green, Superintendent

atter at the post office
act of March 3, 1879.

ANGOLA, INDIANA, JANUARY 23, 1957

Subscription Price \$3.00 per y
5c per copy on Newstands

Mr. and Mrs. Harley Rensch
at time of their marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Harley Rensch will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with open house at the Angola city building from 2:00 to 5:00 o'clock p.m. next Sunday, January 27. All neighbors, friends and relatives are invited to attend. Arrangements have been made for the use of the parking lot in the rear of the Kroger store for this occasion. Mrs. Rensch was the former Elva Everett, and they were married on January 30, 1907 in Butler, Indiana, by the Rev. Oscar Wells.

Celebrate Fifty Years Of Married Life



Mr. and Mrs. Harley Rensch
from a recent photograph.



Mr. and Mrs. Harley Rensch
at time of their marriage.

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Recent Deaths

MRS. EVA KLINGER

Mrs. Eva Klinger, 68, of Orland, died at 4 p.m. Friday, January 7, in Saginaw General hospital, Saginaw, Michigan.

The husband, Richard, a son, Ronald Klinger, Saginaw, and a granddaughter survive.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, January 10, in the Orland Methodist church, with the Rev. Richard Bennett, pastor of the church, officiating. Burial followed in the Greenlawn cemetery, Orland.

MRS. NORMA LEAS WREN

Ill 18 months, Mrs. Norma Leas Wren, 74, widow of Ross Wren, died at 7:40 p.m. Tuesday, January 11, at her home at Route 1, Hudson.

Two sons, Kenneth and Clair Wren, both of Route 1, Hudson; six grandchildren, one great grandchild, three brothers, one sister survive.

Friends may call at the Kistler funeral home in Hudson after 7 p.m. today. Funeral services will be held there at 2 p.m. Friday.

WALTER MCCOY

Walter McCoy, formerly of Angola, died November 23 in Royal Oak, Michigan. He had undergone major surgery earlier, and had apparently been recovering satisfactorily. Mrs. McCoy, the former Constance Williams, of Angola, died three years ago. Mr. McCoy is survived only by a daughter, living in the Detroit area. He was a member of the Sphinx Club, formed in Angola around 1915, and frequently returned for the annual club reunions here. Services were held November 26 with burial in the White Chapel Memorial Cemetery, Royal Oak.

HARLEY RENSCH

Harley Rensch, son of William and Phoebe Aldrich Rensch was born January 27, 1896 and passed away January 7, 1966 at the age of 79 years, 11 months and 11 days.

He was united in marriage to Elva Everetts on January 30, 1907. To this union six children were born: Bonnie Beatrice, who preceded him in death, Raymond, Kermit, Virginia Cole, Howard and Betty McCollum, all of whom survive along with the widow.

Mr. Rensch is also survived by seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 9, from the Klink Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Ellis Roth officiating. Burial followed in the Hamilton cemetery.

MRS. HOMER DILWORTH

Mrs. Homer Dilworth, 95, former resident of Angola, died January 2, in a nursing home in Akron, Pennsylvania, where she had been residing for the past two years. She was the widow of Homer Dilworth, who for many years was superintendent of schools in Steuben county.

In the early 1920's, the Dilworths left Angola for Millersville, Pennsylvania, where Mr. Dilworth became a member of the staff of the college there. After his death some years ago, Mrs. Dilworth made her home with her younger daughter, Mrs. Clair McCullough and family, until she entered the nursing home two years ago.

Survivors include Mr. and Mrs. McCullough, their daughter, Miss Constance McCullough, and two other granddaughters, the Misses Virginia and Cynthia Winans, daughters of the late Lisle Dilworth Winans.

ORLO A. ARNOLD

Orlo A. Arnold, 88, retired Flint and Corunna, Indiana businessman, who had resided at Coldwater, Michigan ten years, died Friday afternoon, January 7, in the Branch County, Michigan, Health Center, Coldwater after a month's illness. He resided at 28 Williams street, Coldwater.

Mr. Arnold was born November 14, 1877 at Flint, a son of the late Nicholas and Sarah Wells Arnold. He was united in marriage to Elga Coleman on May 17, 1903.

Mr. Arnold owned and operated hardware stores in Corunna and Flint 40 years. He was a member of the First Church of Christ in Angola.

Surviving are the wife, Elga; two sons, Gerald A. and Carleton C. Arnold, both of Coldwater; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and a brother, Demmie Arnold, Kendallville.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, January 10, from the Putna funeral home, Coldwater with the Rev. Louis D. Hall officiating. Burial followed in the Flint cemetery.

MRS. EVELYN MARIE BOWERS

Mrs. Evelyn Marie Bowers, 39, of Ashley, died at 1:30 p.m. Monday, January 10, in the Cameron hospital following an extended illness.

She was born September 6, 1926, in Steuben township, the daughter of Clyde and Hazel Miller. The family later moved to Salem Township where Evelyn graduated from the Salem Center high school.

She was united in marriage to Ora Bowers on December 20, 1952 and the couple had made their

Hudson

Send News Items to Local Editor
MRS. LOUISA ALLESHOUSE

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Dole returned home Friday evening after visiting Mr. and Mrs. Hal Dole and family in Dallas, Texas and friends and relatives. They also called on their granddaughter Miss Lucinda Whiskey at Columbia University in Whiskey.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hart called on Mr. and Mrs. Owen Chrisman last Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Cadwallader and family of Payne, Ohio, and Earl Tracy of Fort Wayne spent Sunday afternoon with their parents Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Tracy.

Mrs. Audrey Milleman and daughter of Fremont, Mrs. E. E. Williams and children of Angola, Mr. and Mrs. Lavon Tritch and family and Mr. and Mrs. Eshu Tritch of Otter Lake were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tritch last Sunday afternoon. The occasion honored Mrs. Carl Tritch on her birthday. Cake and jello were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Hartman called on Mr. and Mrs. John Leins last Sunday evening.

John Rowe is able to walk up town again.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wandel and daughter Pat spent the Christmas holidays with Mrs. Howard H. Wandel and family at Sherman, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Cloyd Schmidt spent last week end with his brother and attended his sale at Findlay, Ohio on Saturday. Saturday evening they

home in Ashley since that time.

Mrs. Bowers had been employed by L. G. Maxton Sales, Inc., Angola, since July 1950 with the exception of about a year and a half, during which time she was employed at the Helmer Lumber Company for about a year. She returned to her employment at Maxtons in July 1964 and remained in their employ until July 1965 when illness forced her to leave her position.

The husband, Ora, and her mother, Mrs. Hazel Miller, Route 1, Angola, survive. Her father and a brother preceded her in death.

Funeral services are being conducted at 2 p.m. today from the Klink Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Vern Noll, pastor of the Ashley Church of God, officiating. Burial will follow in the Jackson Prairie cemetery in Jackson township.

CLIFTON J. MUGG

Services for Clifton J. Mugg, 72, R.R. 1, Piercetown, will be conducted at 10 a.m., Thursday, January 13, in the D. O. McComb & Sons funeral home, Fort Wayne with the Rev. Cornelius Vlot officiating. Burial will be in the Oakwood cemetery, Warsaw.

Mr. Mugg died Tuesday, January 11, in the Clinic hospital, Bluffton, where he had been a patient for

visited her sister Mr. and Mrs.

liam Hoffman at Holgate, Ohio. Pat Wandel along with St. Wandel and Carol Ann Burt Dallas, Texas spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Croi Sherman, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wandel daughter Pat were dinner Monday evening of old friend and Mrs. George Roberts and daughters of Sherman, Texas.

Phil Smathers, MYF Conference Officer, attended a retreat with EUB Youth Council at Lake V see Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Smith of Lake were guests of Mr. and Cecil Stamm last Sunday noon.

Mr. and Mrs. Junior Stauffe Montpelier, Ohio, Mrs. Harold K er and daughter, Don McClis Fort Wayne were dinner guest Mr. and Mrs. Clyde McClis Sunday.

Mrs. Opal Garmon is spending few weeks with her sister, Mrs. ton Hovatter in Fort Wayne.

Mr. and Mrs. Ancil Buss of Ida, who have been visiting mother and their children grandchildren the past two weeks returned to their home in Florio Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael of Leo, Mr. and Mrs. William Chorpier of Auburn called on Mrs.

Chorpenning last Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Rollic Allest

spent Sunday evening with Mr. Mrs. Gail Anstett at Pleasant I

The Work and Play Club will with Mrs. Martha Fifer on Jan 20.

Senior Citizens will meet at Town Hall on January 17. Host are Blanche Tritch, Louise I and Vera Tracy. Program co-ter is Thursa Cutler and Ella ler.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sutherland on Mrs. Maud Libey and Mrs. Libey in Kendallville last Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Opal Garmon was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sutl last Saturday.

Ezra Anderson of Orland on Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sutherland Wednesday afternoon.

BIRTHS

At The Elmhurst Hospital To:

Mr. and Mrs. G. Robert He, Pamela Sue Gorrell, Plt Lake, a daughter, Sherry Ly pounds, 2 ounces, on January

Mr. and Mrs. Chester A Grace (Diane Kay Lechle Hamilton, a son, Richard De pounds, 14 ounces, on January

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Iva Clellan, I. (Linda Lou Partin), ley, a son, Theodore Ivan M lam, II, 7 pounds, 3½ ounce January 7.

Mr. and Mrs. John Chris

you like to go along?" Foolish question, foolish answer. I was probably six or eight years old. She was likely fourteen.

About 1916, several neighbors, including Gil, bought Model T Ford touring cars. The cars had but three doors, there being none next the driver. I heard much talk about using "onion juice" as fuel. These cars had to be hand cranked to start the engine, and a low tension magneto supplied electricity for both ignition and headlights. These lights would become very dim when the engine ran at low speed. Gil never learned to drive, and Charlie did most of the driving. In later years, Gil depended on younger family members to drive him about. He traveled about considerably in the course of his fur trading, and I think he sometimes peddled melons and other truck. (Carolyn's note: Gil was Joe Everetts' youngest brother, thus Raymond's great-uncle.)

One day Ted was angry with Charlie and hid the switch key to the car. But with this time pf ignition, this posed no problem. He "jumped" the ignition, and then could "kill" the ignition by pulling the choke wire.

In September of 1917, we moved to the Houlton farm, near the covered bridge, about two or three miles east of Hamilton on the Bellefontain Road. This road is said to have been the route of an old Indian trail. Dad worked for Leland Houlton, and would be called a "hired man." His pay the first year was a dollar a day. We of course had free rent of the house, and were furnished flour for baking. At this time most families baked their own bread. We were furnished also four hundred pounds of pork grown on the farm. Mother also kept a flock of chickens for eggs and meat. We had our own horses to drive, and were allowed to keep a cow. Dad's pay was increased to ten dollars per week for the second year.

Dad had told us how well he liked raw eggs, and naturally Kermit and I had to find our for ourselves. I was first and managed to get an egg down. Kermit tried two or three times without success. He begged me not to tell, which I did not. I'm not sure what difference it made. To this day I have not eaten another raw egg. It was during our stay on the Houlton farm that Howard became a member of the Rensch tribe.

Leland "Jack" Houlton came often to the farm. Sometimes he worked, sometimes he just looked around a little. But he usually had a cigar in his mouth. One day he discarded a cigar butt of perhaps three or four inches, and

thereby hangs a tale. We stashed it away, and at the first opportunity took said butt and some matches to the creek. It must have been in the summer, as we had eaten new cherries for lunch. Sometimes I can still see those cherries coming up. We then slept awhile in the covered bridge, and I think no permanent harm was done. We were about eight and ten years old.

I remember the blizzard that struck while we lived on the Houlton farm, I think late in 1918. It was so bad that nobody went outdoors except Dad. He of course had to do the chores, and in addition did a job or two that normally would have been mine to do. I remember he brought a supply of firewood in the house on a big handsled. We just opened the front door long enough to let him in, sled and all. It was one of the worst days ever.

Fish Creek crossed the Houlton farm, and we spent considerable time along its banks, and sometimes in the water. This time in the water was often, but not always, by design. We enjoyed the "swimming" hole in summer, mostly sans bathing suits.

In winter our school would often go at noon to coast down "Hunt" Aldrich's hill, west of Houlton's corner. I remember once I failed to stop my sled in time and found myself waist deep in the creek. This served as an excuse to spend much of the afternoon near the stove, "drying out." We often skated on some of the numerous ponds, and even sometimes on the creek. This often led to wet feet, of course, but no fatalities.

One of Dad's friends was Wesley "Wes" Camp, a tremendously strong man who sometimes employed Dad to help run his hay baler. It was my goal in life to be as big and strong as Wes. I was advised to eat a lot of pancakes. I ate the pancakes, but never became as strong as my idol, though I may have become as tall.

"Moving day" was usually a big event for the kids, but I doubt the adults appreciated it as much. It often seemed to fall on the coldest day in winter. Everything was moved by team and wagon, except the cattle, which would be led or driven. Some of them were not very easy to lead, and might have been tied to the back of a wagon. We usually called on some neighbors to help move, as we needed two or three wagons to haul our furniture, stoves, etc. It was while we dwelt on a farm known as the Kannel farm that Sister Betty came to live with us. This farm was north of Houlton Bridge in the

wilderness.

In 1923, we moved to a farm known as the Keyes farm, northeast of Hamilton. I was almost fifteen now, and was expected to do a man's work. It was soon after this I obtained my first automobile. Dad bought it at an auction for the sum of twenty-seven dollars. A Ford roadster, it had to be hand cranked. It had a so-called "cutout valve" on the exhaust pipe. Say, did it roar when I opened this valve!

I was in the kitchen dressing for school one morning, and Betty, about two years young, was in the pantry for some reason. Suddenly she cried out, "Oh! Pig gonna fall!" When I got there she was trying her best to prevent a slab of bacon from falling off the shelf.

When I was about eight, Mother sent me to the grocery store with a shopping list and with instructions to say, "Charge it." I had no idea what this meant, but said, "Charge it" when I thought the time was right. The storekeeper, not knowing me, said, "Who shall I charge it to?" I didn't know. Finally he said, "Who is your father?" I said, "Harley Rensch." I assume the bill got paid.

During World War One, people were called upon to make certain sacrifices, especially with respect to foodstuff. At this time most women baked bread for their families, and we bought flour at the grocery store. We were required to buy certain "substitutes" along with our wheat flour. We might have a choice of corn meal, rice, oatmeal, rye flour and such. I remember Mother often mixed rice into the dough, and it was not at all objectionable. It was said that some people of means shopped at several stores and fed the "substitutes" to the pigs or birds.

During World War Two, the rationing was more strictly enforced, with ration stamps for gasoline, sugar, coffee, meat, rubber tires, and several other items. There was a black market in these stamps, and I heard about one man who made trips to Toledo, smuggling beef. There were ceiling prices on many items, and for several years no automobiles were manufactured, and the factories were building war implements instead. There were waiting lists to buy cars, combines, tractors, and other items. Good used cars sold higher than new, as the "ceiling" applied only on new. It was said that some dealers put a few miles on a car so it could be sold as "used." I think many cars sold much higher than the records showed. There must have been a ceiling price

on used tractors, as I saw one sale bill stating that a goat would be sold, and the purchaser of the goat was to receive a tractor free. We need to buy a heating stove, but had to go to the court house to get a permit before we could buy one.

My first job, at age nine or ten, was weeding onions for Wolff and Shook. I began at a dollar a day, but soon had a raise to one dollar twenty-five. Some of the older boys got a dollar fifty cents. These days were long and hot. We had to straddle the onion row and crawl on hands and knees to pull the weeds from the row. I remember one day there was a lot of talk about a "strike." I didn't know anything about strikes, and it went no further than talk.

It was a great thrill to be allowed to drive a team of horses for the first time, and I could hardly wait till I might be allowed to help with the threshing. But the novelty wore off after a few days, and it was hard, dirty work.

In the summers of 1928 and 1929, I worked for Ray Morton north of Hamilton on the Day farm. My pay was fifteen dollars a week and board. Later, when times were hard, I helped Claude Hollinger a couple of summers, but my pay was somewhat less. I first met the Hollingers when I went there to board while teaching at Tamarack. I paid Grace five dollars a week for board and lodging for five days a week, going home week-ends. Had very good meals, too.

During my first winter at Hollinger's, Dwight Putt, brother to my future wife, Naomi, also boarded there and taught at Learned School. Toward spring, Grace contracted mumps, and Dwight had never had mumps. We put up a ladder so he could climb out an upstairs window and avoid being exposed. I think he had mumps several years later anyhow.

Grace Hollinger was somewhat mischievous at times; one time she upset a checkerboard in the middle of a game. On another occasion she started a pillow fight, but I could throw pillows with either hand, and this contest didn't last long. Bob Hollinger, an adopted son was somewhat spoiled, and later became quite a problem for his parents. At this writing, I'm the only one left of the group.

When I was quite young, I heard that China is straight down, at the other side of the earth. One day I decided to dig through and see what it was like. I

likely reached the great depth of eighteen inches, as the ground was pretty hard.

Grandpa (Joseph W. Everetts) had a small farm at the edge of Hamilton. Here he milked two or three cows and sold raw milk in Hamilton. Sometimes he used a wheelbarrow to deliver door to door, and other times he used a couple of carriers with compartments for several glass bottles in each carrier.

He also raised strawberries and raspberries, selling berries in season and also selling plants, even shipping plants at times. He did grafting of fruit trees, and did quite a nursery business. When younger, he did some barbering, and, I am told, sometimes sold pies which Grandma had baked.

Across the road was a stockyard, where livestock was loaded for shipment to Buffalo. One Saturday John Taylor and his two sons were at the yard when I heard Willis crying. When John inquired, Willis said, "Oscar shot me in the leg with his air rifle!" At this, John said to Oscar, "All right, we'll just let Willis shoot you in the leg so you can see how it feels!" I'm not sure how it did turn out.

Kermit must remember the time Dad bought two cows from Uncle Dave at Alvarado and appointed the two of us to lead them home. We led them all the way to the Zurbrugg farm, west of Hamilton. Did I say "led?" It rather seems that "dragged" might have been a better word, and it was slightly over ten miles. Boy was I tired!

When I was very young, our family spent some time with my grandparents in Alabama, who I think must have been managing a farm. There were a number of black people involved in this work, and Grandmother must have become quite fond of at least one of the women. I was too young to remember much of this, but we attended the wedding of a black couple. I do remember hearing the minister say, "Now I pronounce you man and wife." This must have been about 1912 or 1914. (Carolyn's note: Dad also told me about an incident that took place during this visit. He desperately wanted to accompany the men to the field one morning, but after they refused his company, he set out on his own. He was traveling down the country road, and may have been getting tired of his own company, when he met a black woman who knew who he was and where he belonged. She returned him to his mother and grandmother.) Here are some prices of old times:

Coffee 17 cents a pound

Bread 7 cents a loaf (1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.)

Quarter of beef 10 to 15 cents a pound

Ice cream cone 5 cents

Lunch 25 or 35 cents

Milk 8 cents a quart

Names of some schools:

Tamarack

College Corners

Dutch Gap

Hardscrabble

Mudsock

Bonnie Dell

Skunk Hill

Jerusalem

Jug Handle

One night Kermit and I went coon hunting with Gaylord Mullett and Leo Wynkoop, who each had two dogs. Wynkoop's dogs thought they had one up a tree, but Mullett's dogs did not agree, and they were running a trail away from the tree. Finally Mullett fired his pistol in the air as a signal to call in his dogs. At this, we heard a shotgun blast, and a hail of pellets overhead in the trees. Wynkoop raised his gun, but Mullett pulled it down. We may have been too close to somebody's "still," or it could have been other hunters.

SOME HAPPENINGS AT SCHOOL

I was privileged to "hold school" at such places as Tamarack, Skunk Hill, Shipe School, Hesse Cassel, Fairfield Center, Hudson, East Richland, Moore's School, Taylor's Corner, Franklin Center, and Hamilton. Many of these were one-room schools, and I instructed all eight grades in all subjects; also I was janitor in these institutions of learning. Can you imagine me presiding over a class of big girls studying home economics? My pay for several years was one hundred to one hundred ten dollars a month for 8 months of the year.

One day a group of us were on the playground when Vella May Dever came and said, "Charles hit me!" I went in the school house to investigate and said, "Charles, did you hit Vella May?" "Yes." Why did you do this?" "Because she kissed me." Whereupon both burst into tears. Vella May was seven, and Charles Hankey was almost six.

At East Richland I encountered a character named Roland "Jack" Harding. One pleasant fall day, Jack asked to be excused and was gone a long time. Not knowing if he had "fallen in," I sent Ronald LaRowe to see about him. Upon their return, Ronald said, "He was asleep in the yard." Another time I glanced back in time to see Jack pull his big red handkerchief from his mouth. He was preparing to reinsert it when he saw me looking. Boy, I'd give a lot for a picture of his face right then!

At one time the eighth grade were trying to learn square root, and at recess time here came Allen Dirrim, a fifth grader, and said, "I can do that." Sure enough, he demonstrated that he could. He was very bright, and is now a college professor.

Shortly after I began teaching at my first school, Tamarack, County Superintendent Green came to see how we were doing. Soon I heard a slap, and Green said, "Don't make faces at me!" He then approached me and cautioned me to keep a close eye on certain of the boys. I followed this advice ever after. But I've wondered if Blaine Everetts may have had a "tic" which was misinterpreted.

As part of an English assignment John Surface chose to report on a particular kind of snake. At one point he described this snake as being about three thousand feet long. I interrupted to inquire as to his source of information, and expressed doubt as to its accuracy. He said, "It's right here in the encyclopedia." He handed me the book, and I read that the snake can be found at altitudes up to three thousand feet. I could not control my laughter for some time.

I remember one seventh grade boy making reference to the "Great Slat Lake."

On another occasion a geography lesson dealt with the explorations of

Admiral Byrd. Of course "Byrd" sounds just like "bird," and I thought I'd be cute, and so I said, "We read about a Byrd (bird) in today's lesson, whereupon Janet Rollins ventured that it might be a bluebird.

An interesting thing happened to me when I was teaching at Franklin Center School. A man named Reuben Rowe was trustee of Stafford Township, and he must have been looking to hire a teacher for the following year. Our phone rang one day, and Reuben announced that he was satisfied with the verbal agreement we had made, and that the job was mine. I had not talked to him about a job at all and said so. He had been to a Farm Bureau meeting and talked to someone that he mistook for me. My best guess is that he must have seen Edgar Willenar. I bet he thought I was crazy.

MORE DOINGS OF THE RENSCH KIDS

When I was quite young, I walked to school, along with the Everetts kids, the Houltons, and sometimes others. One morning we met a man driving a one-horse wagon, and somebody said, "Let's make him stop." We formed a line blocking the road and forced him to halt. He was patient about it, and we soon allowed him to pass.

At one time we had a neighbor named Loren Aldrich. He was plowing near our house one day when Howard, about three or four, came out to watch. Loren removed his partial plate and said, "Can't you do that?" Of course he could not, but he sure tried.

Leon Houlton and I were playing near the road one winter day when an elderly neighbor named Al Worden came driving by. Leon suggested that we throw snowballs at him. "We won't hit him, but we'll just throw close to him." He stopped his team and said, "I'll report you if you don't stop that." I had no idea what "report" meant, but he sure had me scared.

A family named Lowe attended school for a time. The father, Melvy Lowe, had only one arm, and one day several of the bigger boys, including one or two of his own sons, sat each with an empty sleeve in imitation of Melvy.

Most old-time schools were built with a cloak room, which also had shelves

where we stored our lunches. The heating was inadequate for really bad weather, and a few times we had frozen sandwiches for lunch. Later, when I taught, on bad days, we'd keep our lunches in the main room where it was somewhat warmer.

One student at Houlton School was a character named Arden Vose. Arden could not speak very clearly, but when we'd have a "question box," as we often did late Friday, someone always called on Arden to sing a song. He always obliged and kept the tune quite well. Sometimes he'd be asked to stand on his head, and he could do that, too.

Sometimes we would hold a spelling match of one sort or another. I liked what we called "spelling by the last letter." Each contestant could spell a word of his own choosing, so long as it began with the same ending letter of the preceding word spelled. If I could spell a word ending with the letter "x," this was tough on the next contestant. I'd study the dictionary ahead of time, and won this kind of match several times.

As I look back, I feel that I did not appreciate my grandparents as I should have, especially Grandpa Evertts. I stayed there quite a few times or would go there for a meal. Grandpa was not wealthy by any means, but I remember meeting him in a store one day, and he gave me a coin. I must have been a big boy then, but I was not sure of its value. I think it was a half-dollar. He often let me read some of his magazines, especially "The American Boy," and on a few occasions he left word at the general store for me to come in and pick out a pair of overalls or a pair of shoes. I can now see that he was a real good old Grandad.

KERMIT'S MEMORIES OF GROWING UP

My first memories were when my parents (Harley and Elva Everetts Rensch) lived on grandfather Joseph W. Everetts place in the extreme southwest corner of section seven, Troy Township, DeKalb County, Indiana. This property (3 acres), house (4 rooms), small barn, grandfather's barber shop and about thirty fruit trees was located in the southwest corner of his father's farm settled in 1837. This I will call Residence No. 1. To my knowledge, the four oldest of the Rensch children were born here.

From there we moved to Butler, about 2 blocks north and 2 blocks east of the intersection of what is not Ind. Rd. #1 and U.S. 6. We had lived in Butler before that (before my memory). Dad worked for Wesley Camp baling hay and straw out of barns and stacks, for which he received \$1.50 per day.

From there we moved back to residence No. 1 in about 1917 (Carolyn's note: There was an erasure here - he probably had it right the first time). Dad still worked some for Camp, doing general farm work and digging ditches around the neighborhood. Virginia was born here in 1915.

From here we moved to the old Houlton homestead in the Southwest corner of Section No. 1, Franklin Township in about 1917. This house is supposed to be the first frame house built in DeKalb County. Howard G. was born in this house in 1918. This farm was owned by Leland (Jack) Houlton at this time. Dad worked for him for \$1.00 per day, and we were allowed to keep 12 chickens and some milk cows.

I started school from here in the Houlton School (1 room). The first day - nice looking school mom (Helen Carpenter) - no books - no slates - played - had fun - second day - same thing - third day, books, slates, teacher, all there. Too much work, never went back (last part not true).

In about 1919 we moved to Residence No. 4 in the Southeast corner of Section No. 22, Franklin Township. We went to Franklin Center School - 2 mile walk. Clarence Bowers was the teacher. Dad worked on the New York Central Railroad bridge gang. It was here that our driving horse, Kernel, upset the sleigh with Mom, throwing Virginia and Howard in a snow bank.

Bessy, the heifer calf that my grandparents gave me as a bribe to keep me

away from horses and mules when we lived on the Houlton farm, had now calved, so we had plenty of milk, cream and butter.

On most Friday nights after school, instead of going home, I would walk to Hamilton to spend the weekend with my Grandparents. Their place (17 acres), mostly fruit and berries, was located across the road (south) from the stockyard.

On Saturday morning, I would take a fork and shovel and clean the railroad (Wabash) stock cars, usually w, one single deck for cattle and one double deck for hogs, sheep and calves. The cute calves and lambs I felt sorry for, knowing that when they got to Buffalo, N.Y., they would be slaughtered.

For removing the manure from these cars I received 75 cents for a single deck and \$1.50 for a double. Grandad would haul the manure across the road in a wheelbarrow to use as fertilizer for his nursery and berries. He sold berries and fruit in season, also strawberry, raspberry, gooseberry, currants, rosebushes, many more berries, flowers and fruits; also fruit trees of most kinds and varieties which he had planted as seeds, budded when they were two years old, then cared for for another two years before they were large enough to sell.

He received 25 cents per hundred for strawberry plants. These now (1997) sell for \$12.50 per hundred. Some orders were for as many as 10,000 plants. Raspberries were 10 cents; rose bushes and fruit trees \$1.00 each (now about \$15.00 each). After being cleaned and wrapped, they were loaded on the trusty wheelbarrow (he had 3) and pushed to the railroad depot for shipment to about 15 states and a few foreign countries. Gramps also kept 3 or 4 milk cows from which he bottled and sold milk in Hamilton. He did the milking. Grandmaw did the bottling, 1 quart, 1 pint, and a few ½ pint. Bottles. When I was there, it was my job to pump water in the tub (hand pump), to cool the milk as there was no electricity at that time. The milk was then placed on the wheelbarrow (wooden wheel) in carriers (6 bottles each) which he had made (of course, he had made the wheelbarrow also), then into town to make house to house deliveries: 10 cents per quart, 5 cents per pint, 3 cents per ½ pint. It was about this time that he taught me to milk.

About 1920, we moved to residence No. 5, in section 33, Otsego Township, Steuben County, about ¼ mile west of Grandad's. The road in front (south)

of the house was the county line between Steuben and DeKalb counties. About 50 feet north of the house was the Wabash Railroad. We got up one morning to find 5 or 6 wrecked railroad cars piled up in our back yard and garden.

Dad worked on the local railroad section gang along with Rube Evertts (Grandad's brother Reuben), Lute Albright, Bill Gegax, Jack Fee, Arthur Camp (brother of Wesley) as foreman. Their section went from about 2 miles west of Hamilton to about 2 miles west of Edon, Ohio (state line). They worked a 6 day week, but the track had to be inspected on Sunday for broken rails, loose joints and so forth by Mr. Camp and one member of the gang. When it was Dad's turn on a Sunday, I would go along sometimes.

During World War I, the tracks and bridges had to be walked at night for fear of sabotage. Mr. Gegax had seniority and took the night shift. He had to have a watch to record the time that he was at each crossing and bridge. Not having one, he stopped off at the hardware on his way home and bought an Ingersoll watch for \$1.00, went on home and proudly showed it to his wife, Hatty, and told her of his promotion. Hetty was quite tight with their money and told him to take it back and get his money back - he could carry the alarm clock. It seems that it would not fit his pocket, so she made the pocket larger and poor Billy had to walk the tracks for about 3 years with an alarm clock in his hip pocket, but they saved a dollar.

I don't believe we lived at this place but about 6 months. We went to the Hamilton School.

Shortly before moving to residence No. 6, Dad went to Thrush's sale and bought a team of work horses. All of his horses prior to that were driving horses. This team of mares was one black (Flory) and a bay, or brown (Dory). They served us faithfully for several years.

This place (No. 6) was known as "The Lost Forty" and was Dad's first venture in farming for himself. It was located in Section 1 of Franklin Township, DeKalb County and joined the north side of the Houlton farm (residence No. 3) and was owned by a woman by the name of Emma Dibling. It was known as "The Lost Forty" because it contained 40 acres and there was no road to it. To get in or out from the south, we had to open a gate a short distance east of the covered bridge (Houlton) over Fish Creek, drive

through, shut the gate, drive a short distance through some low ground pasture, drive through (not over) the creek with the water often up to the hubs (middle) of the buggy or wagon wheels, through more pasture to another gate to open and close, another $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of winding path and we were home. This way was impassable during high water periods.

Another way out was to the north through Lewis Shultz's farm, through two woods, up Jay Dotts' lane through his barnyard, between his house and barn and we were to a public road now Steuben County road No. 775-S. It was at this place that Betty June, the last of the Rensch children, was born.

To get to school (Houlton), about 1 mile south, we walked the aforementioned trail part way then crossed Fish Creek on a log that had been cut to fall across the creek. If high water took the log out, Dad and we boys would have to cut another tree that would fall across the creek. At this school (Houlton), one family of children would bring 2 or 3 pancakes to school for lunch. They would roll them up and eat them without anything on them.

In about 1922, we moved to Residence No. 7 in Steuben County, Otsego Township, Section 23, on the road now known as road 600 E. This farm, 100 acres, was owned by Lithwin Gates and was formerly owned by a Reverend Keyes. At this time, Howard started school at Maple Grove, or McCool, one mile north. Raymond was a sophomore at Hamilton, a $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 mile walk each way. Mr. Gates carried mail out of Pleasant Lake and dealt in used cars. It was at this time that Dad and we two oldest boys learned to drive an automobile, a 1914 Model T Ford loaned to Dad by Mr. Gates. At this time, Mom bought her first and only piano, used.

In 1924, we moved to residence No. 8 in Dekalb County, Smithfield Township, northeast corner of Section 1, south side of the County Line Road. We had to leave the Model T behind, but Dad soon bought another T. I believe it was a 1918. This farm (118 acres) was owned by a Mr. Ed Zerbrugg who lived in Auburn.

We kids, Virginia, Howard and I went to school at Supreme $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west and 1 mile south. In the spring of 1926, I graduated from the 8th grade and went my freshman year, 1926-1927 at Hamilton. Raymond took a normal course at Tri-State in Angola.

In the fall of 1927, I went to Ashley School (sophomore) and hauled the Rupert kids, Matilda, Rosa, Vincent and Francis, as well as Virginia and Howard, all in my 1923 Model T which I had bought in the spring of 1927 for \$75.00.

In the spring of 1929, we moved to residence No. 9 in Section 26, northeast corner, Smithfield Township, DeKalb County. This 200+ acre farm was owned by the Daniels sisters. Dad had sowed about 30 acres of wheat the fall before when it was worth about \$2.60 a bushel. The next summer when we Threshed it, the price had fallen to 36 cents per bushel. The depression had struck. Following is how the expenses and income per acre were:

18 bu. Per acre. A good yield at that time.
 36 cents per bu.
 \$6.48 per acre income

Expenses per acre:

\$5.00 per acre cash rent
 \$5.30 seed (2 bu. Per acre @\$2.65 per bu.)
 .54 threshing at 3 cents per bu.
 \$10.84 per acre out of pocket expense
 -6.48 income per acre
 \$4.36 loss per acre, plus plowing, fitting, sowing, cutting, shocking,
 hauling to the threshing machine, taking care of the grain and feeding the
 threshing crew.

Dad had gone in debt \$500.00 the fall before for a new IHC (International Harvester) 10-20 tractor, plow and disc, figuring that 200 bushels of wheat at \$2.65 per bushel would pay it off. As you can see, it didn't. I think it took us four years to get it paid for.

I graduated from Ashley High School in 1930. Until I started High School, all my schools were one room country schools. I never went to a school which had a gymnasium for basketball, or a ball park for baseball, or a football team or cafeteria.

I helped Dad farm and bought and broke some western wild horses which I sold and traded. At this time, I bought a feed grinder and put it on an old

Chevrolet truck, powered it with a Studebaker Big Six motor from a wrecked car and went from far to farm grinding feed.

In the spring of 1934, we moved to residence No. 10 in section 25, Pleasant Township, Steuben County, 1 mile east of Angola on U.S. 20, north side of the road. This proved to be Dad and Mom's last move. This was the first and only property they owned.

Dad had a threshing machine and went from place to place; some people put their grain in barns, but most left it in shocks of 12 bundles; the bundles were made by binder, which cut and tied them and dumped them on the ground. Then someone came along and set them up into shocks. They were left to dry, and the weather made a difference on how long they had to wait before threshing.

Threshing day was always a big day for the women of the place where they were working, as they had to cook for 12 to 22 men for dinner and sometimes for supper. The neighbors brought in teams and wagons with hayracks to haul the grain from the field to the separator, and some just came with a pitch fork to load the wagons in the field. They had to have someone at the side of the separator to change bags. The grain came down a pipe, and if threshing wheat, they put about a bushel and a half in each bag. If they were threshing oats they put about two bushels in each bag. Then they had men who carried them to grain bins. Some people had the grain bins in the barn, and others had a separate building for grain. The same group of people went from place to place day after day until the neighborhood threshing was done. The straw came out a big pipe on back of the separator, and piled it on a very large stack. The stack was usually put in the barn yard, but some had the straw blown into the town.

The engine and separator had to be overhauled each spring to make sure nothing would break down during threshing season. Dad would start as soon as possible, when the weather was right, as he put out corn, and he had to get both done on time. We kids always had to be out there to see what was going on, and you never saw darter kids - clothes, faces and hands. When we were older we helped drive horses in the field and I liked to paint the shakers and straw racks from inside separator. Dad said he never saw anyone who could

use so much paint.

The engine had a steam whistle and Dad had so many blasts on whistle for different things. You could hear it for several miles if the wind or conditions were right. We could tell when the job was done, when he was on the road moving, or if something was wrong.

We also had a water wagon with a large galvanized tank on it to haul water for the engine. Wherever they were working, the person furnished wood or coal to burn in the engine to make steam.

I walked to school until I was ten years old, and then we were in Scott Township again and they bused the kids. Joyce was in the first year of High School before we moved to Scott. She drove a horse and buggy to school to Fremont. She would unhitch her horse and put it in a barn and when school was over she would hitch her horse up again and come home. Lewis and I walked to Hellspoint School. I-69 goes right over where the school and yard were; it is a short $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of the Pokagon Park entrance off I-69. Lewis was always tall and long legged. He would go first through snow banks, and I would try to follow in his foot steps, which was a big job. We had a lake on our place and when the lake was frozen over, it made it much shorter to cut across the lake. But back then we didn't have refrigerators and some people had ice boxes. In the winter when the ice got about 12 inches thick on the lake, they would go to the lake, and mark out a square and mark that into smaller pieces then they would take saws and cut the ice into blocks. The blocks were taken to shore to a large ice house which looked like a barn. On the bottom was sawdust. They would layer the ice and sawdust until the building was full. The places where they took ice out would freeze over again and would be dark colored and we would walk across them instead of walking around. We were going across the lake one day and I guess I wasn't paying much attention, and Lewis reached out and grabbed me back and said, "Be careful, that's not frozen enough." It was just a thin coat of ice. I was more careful after that.

When Lewis was twelve years old he went to my uncle's, as soon as school was out (in April some time) and worked all summer until school started. We would see him once or twice all summer. He did that every year until he graduated and that year Dad was ill and could not work, so Lewis did the farming. We left that farm the next spring and moved into a place where we

had a house and barn. Lewis put out corn on another place and worked at the cement plant at Stroh. Dad had passed away in January. Mother took care of women who had new babies. In those days babies were born at home. We moved March 1st. It was only about a two mile move but the roads were so muddy we could hardly get through. Our aunt and uncle came out to help. Mother and Joyce were working, Maxine and Wilbur were in school. That left Lewis and I, and aunt and uncle. We moved everything downstairs from the second floor and upstairs from the basement the day before and packed everything we possibly could. We got up early and got over the roads as early as time would allow. I do not think I slept very much as I turned and tossed all night. Aunt and I started scrubbing as soon as we got there. I'll never forget, she said, "They never scrubbed these mopboards, they just mopped them." When we moved, you always got the kitchen cleaned and stove (wood range) set up so you could have warm water and eat, then set up beds, because that night you slept in the new place and were very tired. We lived in this house until we moved to town.

We always had large gardens and we kids had to help hoe, gather, and can. We would also have a large truck patch with melons and potatoes. Every fall 50 to 60 bushels of potatoes went into the basement. There was always enough left for seed the next year. When Mother was gone it was up to the kids to keep garden and canning going.

We washed on a washboard and had a copper boiler that was put on the stove and all white clothes were boiled to make them nice and white. We also had two sets of irons that were warmed on the stove, and two ironing boards, so two people could iron, and it was a job to get those irons the right temperature to iron. When I was younger it was my job to iron the towels, hankies, everyday clothes no one worried about. Next came those good white shirts. Oh! You see all the material at that time had to be ironed as it was very wrinkled if not ironed. Men's good shirts were always white.

It was Maxine's and my job to help Dad make hay as Lewis was always at Uncle's during hay making. Maxine drove, I loaded and dad pitched it up to me. We used a hay fork to get it off the wagon and how I hated to stand on one end of the wagon while the fork was taking a bunch off the other end. I set the fork each time. We had a horse on the outside of barn who pulled the hay fork up to top of barn and on a track it would go out over the mow. The horse was hitched to a long rope that pulled the hay up.

One day it was real hot and the wind was blowing enough to run the windmill, so we were filling the big tank at the barn and had real cold water. Every time we went to the field or barn, we went past the well and would stop and drink. Dad said, "Now don't drink too much water or you will get sick." Well, I guess I drank too much because I did get sick.

I worked for a school teacher two years doing the housework and taking care of her son. He was three or four years old. I was paid \$3.00 a week and I did her mother's laundry for another 50 cents.

We moved into Angola in the spring of 1938, as Lewis had started working at Covell Implement and we thought I could get a job there more easily. I started cleaning my cousin's house and before I finished, I had a chance to become a telephone operator for 21 cents an hour and did that sound good. Soon I relieved the night operator on her nights off, and that was 23 cents an hour. Boy! I had never seen so much money, so right away I started saving for a washing machine. The telephone company never did pay us minimum wages after it became a law. We never figured out how they got by. After several years we joined the union and got our minimum wage. World War II was on and some of the girls took war related jobs and got more money for awhile. Then they came running back to the telephone office. They hired a lot of Tri-State students' wives and every time there was a college break or holiday, home they would go. The old standbys worked overtime and all holidays to keep things going and I mean "worked" for we would be short of help. Holidays were double time and I needed it.

I joined the Rensch family on March 18, 1945, and that was during the war and we could not buy any new household goods, so everything we purchased to use was second hand. We bought a three burner oil stove to cook on and we had to watch them closely to keep them from smoking. We would heat water on this stove. Kermit put water on and thought he had set it right, and he left the house. When he came back, the house was full of smoke. The smoke was greasy and the walls and curtains were black. After this happened twice the stove went. I was at the telephone office when it happened - imagine coming home and not being able to sit on a chair or touch anything without getting all black.

My small wages paid grocery bills, telephone, light and gas bills, taxes, auto license and other farm bills which would come up. I was able to save some

money for a rainy day. Kermit would go to the sale barn and buy baby calves for \$3.00 each and raise them. There was a good Guernsey herd north of Angola and Kermit was able to get several from there. They were good cows when they grew up. Our herd was a mixture and Kermit decided to have just Holsteins. He went to a sale and bought two registered Holstein heifers about nine months old for \$125.00. Through that purchase we got in touch with a Mr. Allen at Fowlerville, Michigan and bought baby calves from him for \$20.00 each. They would be four or five days old when we got them. They would send a card to us and we would go to get them. From those we built a good herd of Holsteins. Part of the \$3.00 and \$20.00 calves came from my wages, also. Then Kermit saw a cow for sale in LaGrange County, which he thought he should have. It was a public auction. He asked me how much money I had in my checking account (his never had much). I told him and he said, "You think I could use it to buy that cow?" He didn't think it would take all of it, but that evening my checking account was gone. As soon as the check came to the bank they called me at work to see if I knew he had written the check. For those times that was a very, very big price for a cow. I don't remember if she was that good a cow. She was the most expensive cow at the sale.

People in those days didn't have much money and loaning institutions were very careful to whom and how much they loaned. It was nothing to get turned down for a very small amount.

When I left the telephone company in 1950, my pay checks were around \$47.00 - that was for two weeks. We would be very happy every time we got one or two cents an hour raise. Sunday time, overtime, and holidays gave us a few cents an hour more.

Our cousin, Lee Hoffman, visited us here. He was the son of Dad's sister, Lydia Hoffman, whose home was in North Dakota. Lee was looking for employment in the area. He stayed a few days with us, then drifted on to Jackson, Michigan, where he found a good job. He married Florence and had one daughter, Margaret. We visited him once in awhile, and he finally visited us about once a year. He had a car long before we did. Lee passed away September 10th, 1984. It was always a treat to visit Lee, because Jackson was a big day to all farm folks. He took us to an ice cream parlor, and ordered sundaes

MEMOIRS OF VIRGINIA COLE GROWING UP IN INDIANA IN THE 1920'S AND 1930'S

My first memory is about the year 1921-1922 when I was six years old. We lived on the Cannel Farm east of Hamilton, Indiana, two years. There was no main road to this farm. We had to open and shut gates, cross a creek, and follow the horse and buggy path to the main buildings. Dad had placed a tree log on a plank over the creek for us to walk on. The creek did not have much water in it, so the horses could walk through and did not need a bridge. Our closest neighbors were the Clarence Schultz family, who had four sons. Our sister, Betty June, was born here. My playmates were all boys, so I was rather a timid bashful tomboy. I remember running away from home, through the buggy pass, across the creek, and across Road 1, the main highway, to play with the Gurtner children. They had some girls and a pony. I was punished properly for doing it.

I have heard Mother say that I did not walk till I was 2 years old. They took me to the doctor, but he did not find anything wrong. He suggested that they feed me the bone marrow from all the beef she cooked. I still like it. Another suggestion was to rub egg white on my knees. So every time she broke an egg, she would use the very last few drops remaining in the shell on my knees.

My first school was the Houlton School in Franklin Township, DeKalb County in 1921-1922. It was a one room school with all eight grades, and Helen Carpenter was our teacher. My subjects and final grades were: Reading 95; Writing 93; Arithmetic 93; (Please note: my mother had saved 10 of my 12 grade cards - quite a feat considering how many times we packed up and moved to different homes.) During winter when there was snow on the ground we were allowed to walk quite a distance to a steep hill, where we spent our noon hour sliding down hill. Not many had sleds, but we used a long plank or board, and several children could pile on at one time. The plank became very smooth with use, and sometimes we would be going so fast we would plunge into the ditch.

We did not have hot lunches, but in very cold weather, our mothers might bring a kettle of hot soup. We have a picture taken that year with 26 students and Miss Carpenter. Raymond, Kermit and I were students. I am the smallest girl (pulling up a sock and looking at the boy next to me. I had a ribbon in my hair). William Potter was Trustee; Clarence Green, Superintendent. We did not have a camera, but someone took a snapshot of Betty sitting on the floor on a black and white cowhide, which Dad had tanned. She was just a few months old, but could sit alone.

Our cousin, Lee Hoffman, visited us here. He was the son of Dad's sister, Lydia Hoffman, whose home was in North Dakota. Lee was looking for employment in this area. He stayed a few days with us, then drifted on to Jackson, Michigan, where he found a good job. He married Florence and had one daughter, Maureen. We visited him once in awhile, and his family visited us about once a year. He had a car long before we did. Lee passed away September 10th, 1984. It was always a treat to visit Lee, because Jackson was a big city to us farm folks. He took us to an ice cream parlor, and ordered sundaes

for all - our first experience, as we had only had homemade ice cream, made in a hand cranked freezer. He also took us to the Cascade Park for picnics, and after dark to view the cascades. This was a huge man made waterfall sweeping down many cement steps, with different colors spotlighted on the falls. There was also music.

Dad farmed with horses, and had a buggy horse. He was also the proud owner of a motorcycle with a side car. I loved to make trips with him. I remember one hot June day, Dad was taking a case of strawberries to town to sell. I rode along, wearing a straw hat. The wind blew it off and we had to stop to retrieve it. Dad was a bit upset with me.

I had slightly curly hair and Mother would wrap it around rags to make long curls. Of course, I cried and fussed because it hurt when she combed out the snarls. But as I was the only girl it was important to look feminine. One day Dad and Mother decided to stop the fussing and have my hair cut. Dad took me to the barber shop - no beauty shops in small towns. When we arrived home Mother was shocked - my hair was so short and straight. So she had me wear a dust cap until my hair grew a bit longer.

Our favorite neighbor while living on this farm was Dode Houlton, his wife, Maude, and son Marion. Dode had a car, and would take us to Hamilton or Butler for important business. If I remember right he took us to Auburn, Indiana to attend the 8th grade graduation ceremonies when Raymond graduated. Dode and Maude lived in an eight-sided stucco house - we called it round. The son, Marion repaired watches and clocks in a room in the house.

I do not remember of having a Christmas tree in our home while growing up. But our schools always had one, decorated mostly with crepe paper and hanging bells. These were paper ones folded flat, but opened accordin-style to the shape of a bell. We had a Christmas program, when students entertained with readings, poems, singing, and Christmas plays. There were small gifts under the tree, and Santa appeared to give out the gifts. Not much money was spent for gifts in our home. But each Christmas eve, we all hung our long socks on chair backs expecting St. Nick, and we were not disappointed. But as we grew older, we found our stockings almost full of hickory nuts and walnuts with just one gift showing. But we kept up the custom until the youngest one learned the truth about St. Nick.

We all wore long underwear and long socks during cold weather. How anxious we were for spring to arrive and we could go barefoot in summer. I often wonder how Mother ever managed to do all that laundry by hand, on the washboard. Saturday night was bath night. The galvanized round tub was brought to the kitchen and placed in front of the cook stove. Warm water was put in. The kitchen door was shut, and the girls took their baths. Then after dressing in clean clothes, we left the kitchen, and it was the boys turn for their baths. I suppose Dad and Mother were last. Mother always hung the clothes outdoors even in winter and they would freeze, sometimes taking a couple of days to dry.

Then in 1923 23 moved to the Lithwin Gates farm north of Hamilton. It was also known as the "Preacher Keyes farm" as he was a former owner. To reach the farm we followed gravel roads out of Hamilton until we reached a lane which went up to the buildings. The Baker family lived at the point of our lane and the gravel road. They had several children we played with. Mother popped corn often and she would say, "I believe those kids smell the corn popping," as they came so often at that special time. This house had a large living room. The folks decided to buy new linoleum for the floor. They measured the room and went to town to choose the pattern. The store owner came out to measure as he thought they had not measured correctly. If I remember right, we three youngest had measles at the same time. We were all put in one bedroom, and the blinds pulled to keep the room dark. It was thought that light would weaken the eyesight. Also we were asked to drink lots of water. I would drink some, but not as much as Mother thought I should. But Betty and Howard were more cooperative.

The folks purchased a piano while we lived here. I am not sure when I started lessons, maybe not until 1927. Mother had saved some of my lesson outlines with my grades on them. They are dated 1927 and 1928. So maybe my lessons did not start as soon as they bought the piano. I took lessons from a maiden lady, Lottie Masters who lived with her parents in Hamilton, Indiana. Mother had to keep at me to practice. But I did learn enough to be able to play for the children's Sunday School at the Hamilton Methodist Church, which was held in the basement. Later I played upstairs for the opening service for the Adult Sunday School. They had more experienced pianists for church services.

Each year just before Easter, it was our custom to hide hen eggs around in the farm buildings. Each child would select a hiding place, then slip out to the hen house each day and get eggs to carry to their hiding place. Dad would help the younger ones. Then Easter morning, we would carry them to the house to cook. There was much competition among us and it was fun. Mother would boil eggs, fry eggs, and always fix pickled eggs. These were hard boiled eggs, peeled, then put in red beet pickle juice for several days. I still make them. The first time I had devilled eggs was a a neighbor, Juanita Teegardin's home.

Kermit, Howard and I attended McCool School, in Otsego Township. This was a one room school with eight grades, 23 students. Carroll Maxton was our teacher for the two years we attended there: 1922-23 and 1923-24. These are the two years that my grade cards were not saved. We have a nice picture of Carroll with the entire group standing on the steps of the school house. My special friend at this school was Georgianna Barr, and we exchanged overnight visits. I suppose now it is called a slumber party. Josephine Sutton was my teacher in the 4th grade. Mable Wagner was my teacher in the 5th grade. So we must have attended McCool school four years. My grades averaged 79 to 92. Miss Wagner graded me more closely as my grade cards were marked: "Attitude toward work - is carelessly done; gives up too easily," then toward the end of the year, "Improving Recitations - Capable of doing better; Conduct - Restless - inclined to mischief." At this time Raymond was in Hamilton High School. Sometimes he stayed

overnight at Grandpa Everetts. Sometimes he walked, some times drove the horse and buggy. One winter day he was taking a short cut home, going across frozen Hamilton Lake. He stepped into a soft spot, lost his balance, and his dinner pail fell in the lake. My mother always told that one of her good teaspoons is on the botton of Hamilton Lake. Raymond played the Tuba in the High School band, and during summer the band entertained one night a week on the streets of Hamilton. On that evening, Raymond, Kermit and Howard would drive the horse and buggy, while Dad would take Mother, Betty and me in the motorcycle with side car. After the band concert there would be a free movie. We sat on bleachers on a vacant lot. Mother always popped corn at home and brought five sacks for us, as we could not afford to buy it. As I mentioned, we lived on the Lithwin Gates farm, and he was a car dealer in Plymouth, Indiana. He loaned Dad a car. Kermit tells me it was a 1914 Model T, and had been stored in a bar several miles away. Dad's nephew, Lester Barron, helped Dad get the car in working order and bring it to our house. Of course, when we moved, we no longer had use of it.

While living on the farm, the Alvarado Methodist Church had a revival and we were urged to attend, which we did. We joined the church at this time, and we were the largest family to do so. We were given a Hymn Book with the date and other information inscribed. The Rev. Don Jennings was pastor. He is now - 1986 - living at the Methodist Home in Warren, Indiana, and is their chaplain. He also writes a religious column for the Indiana Prairie Farmer magazine. The Rev. A.A. Turner was our pastor later. As we moved from farm to farm, we found new church homes - among them were the Hamilton Methodist, the Waterloo United Brethren, the Hamilton Nazarene, the Angola Fairview Missionary. After Dad passed away in 1966, our Mother attended the Angola Nazarene Church.

Dad had a brother, David, who lived near the Alvarado Church. He was married and had a step daughter, Arco (Mrs. Lester) Barron. We visited her home often for Sunday dinner. She always served chocolate cake for dessert, as she knew I liked it so much. We always asked her to play the piano since she played chords and could jazz it up. She had played background piano music for the silent pictures shown in theaters. She was a farmer's wife and the mother of two sons. Dad also had a brother, Nicholas; we called him Uncle Nick. He lived in Three Rivers, Michigan, with his wife, Libbie, and daughter, Wanda, who was my age. He also had two step-sons, older than Wanda. They visited us often, especially in late September, as he and Dad could go to the famous Angola Fair. They loved to watch the horse races. The ladies and children did not go; I suppose they could not afford it. Dad would take us to Three Rivers to visit them too, driving the motorcycle with Mother and three youngest in the side car. Kermit and Raymond stayed home to do the chores. Wanda's half brothers would push me in a rope swing which hung from a tall tree in their front yard. This was the highest swing I ever saw, and it was much fun.

1926

Then in March 1926, we moved to the Ed Zerbrug farm which had 120 acres. It was west of Hamilton on Road 4 in DeKalb County. Dad's sister and husband, Mary and Jay

Skelton, lived on another Zerbrug farm just across the road, and it was in Steuben County, as Road 4 is the County Line. We ran across there often. One time Dad had an emergency appendicitis operation at the Garrett Catholic Hospital. We stayed a few nights at Aunt Mary's. One night she heard Betty and me singing, and she told us it was a terrible thing to do when our father was critically ill.

As we lived in DeKalb County, we should have gone to Ashley School. But since Kermit and Raymond were in Hamilton High School, Dad wanted us to go there too. He made some kind of agreement with the trustee about tuition, and Dad was to furnish transportation. So Kermit drove the car and took us, and a neighbor girl. I was in the 6th grade and Knight Kissinger was my teacher. Mr. Kissinger was the son of the Hamilton druggist, and he wanted to be a doctor instead of a teacher. So he taught school long enough to earn money to take him through medical school. He had been in private practice in Angola many years.

At Hamilton School we had special teachers who came to our room to teach Music, Art, and Penmanship. I hated Art, and did not like Geography. When I reached home each night, Betty would ask me, "Do you have to study g-e-o-g-es-dy tonight?" The next year Dad decided we could go to Ashley School. Therefore Kermit graduated from there in 1930, I graduated in 1932, and Howard in 1935. We were now picked up by bus, a long ride, since we were about the first ones to be on. Kermit played basketball, and the whole family enjoyed going to the games. He was a good player, and popular in other school activities. He was on the Debate Team, could quote Shakespeare and give readings. Our favorite one was about Dutchmen Twins and he gave it with a Dutch Accent. Our parents attended the ball games, the PTA meetings and other school activities. My 7th and 8th grade teacher was Carl Becker and he was an excellent teacher. I received A's and B's and C's with my poorest mark in Geography!

I entered High School in 1929 and graduated in 1932. My grades were A's, B's and C's. Fred Frederick was our principal all except one year, when Willis Cox filled in. Because of the tenure law, Mr. Frederick taught nine years in Ashley then was forced by law to go to a different school one year. Then he could return to Ashley for another nine years. He was strict, but got along well with students. The Trustee and Parents requested him to return. They liked his discipline.

1929

We moved to the Daniels farm the spring of 1929. This was a 218 acre farm with a lovely big house and nice barns. The house had big covered porches which curved around two sides of the house from the front door to the back door. It also had sidewalks around the porches and extended on out to the mailbox. There was a furnace, our first home to have one, no dirty stove to clean up after, and a bathroom with running hot and cold water, tub, stool and vanity. This also was a first for us - we had always before this used the old outhouse. But still, no electricity. We used several kerosene lamps and lanterns. But also had a newer lamp called Coleman. These burned gasoline and had mantles which gave a

brighter light. These mantles were very fragile and if touched or bumped would drop off like cigarette ash. The new ones had to be put on. We had to put pressure in with the gasoline, which was done with a small pump bought for that purpose. The lamps were more expensive; they had white (not clear) glass shades - the lanterns had clear globes.

Our drinking water was pumped by windmill directly into a tank in the corner of the kitchen. It had a varnished wood case around it and a lid on hinges to match, so the water was always clean. The rain water was pumped by hand at a small sink in a small room. This was where the men washed up after dirty farm work. Mother used the rain water for her laundry. This rain water ran from eavespouts from the edge of the house down underground to a cistern. A large supply tank situated off a second back porch contained the hard water to flush the bathroom stool. We had a nice dining room, two living rooms, a bedroom which our parents used and the bathroom. Then upstairs we had three bedrooms, one large room for the three boys, one for Betty and me, and a guest room. The Daniels daughters had reserved another upstairs storage room to store some of their parents' belongings.

I was a teenager and took great interest in keeping a clean and neat house. Mother was busy enough with all the other work, and was glad to have me do the cleaning. We did not have electricity, so no electric sweeper. I used a "corn husk" broom and much muscle, and it stirred up plenty of dust. I always wore a dust cap to keep my hair clean. At least once a year we "cleaned house." This took several days and involved washing curtains and windows, airing bedding on the clothes line. We used a wire beater to pound the dust out of rugs. Cupboards had to be cleaned, fresh paper put on the shelves, the dishes washed and returned to the cupboard. Dresser drawers and closets cleaned, etc. As I grew older I helped Grandma. She had two sets of curtains, one for summer, one for winter. I thought she was rich. A lot of these curtains were lace, and after being washed had to be placed by hand on curtain stretchers, so they would dry straight. These frames were wood, with nails sticking out, and we would press the curtain through the nails. Our fingers were sore after this job.

I also helped in other homes. My first away from home job was the day after I graduated from 8th grade. It was at the home of Arthur and Mable Lautzenhiser southeast of Hamilton. My brothers' favorite comment about my teenage years was, "Virginia will make some good man a wife," which was not the way I wanted to hear it.

I wanted a living room suite, as all we had were straight and rocking chairs. We could not afford to buy one. But we had a church friend who lived in Fort Wayne, and she said she would watch the advertisements in the daily paper and she could surely find a used one. Well, she found one for \$15.00, and Kermit went to get it. We now had a modern living room, even though the set showed much wear, and even had a few patches. My parents used that living room set until Mother had to go to a nursing home. Of course, we had slip covered it.

While living on the farm, we had special projects to make money. One year we raised

one-half acre of green snap beans for a canning factory. Picking them could have been a back breaking job, but we came up with a good idea. We took milking stools to the field, placed them between bean rows. We could sit on the stools and pick from two rows of beans, sometimes filling a pail before moving on. We made enough money that year to buy Mother a new Copper Clad kitchen range. It was cream colored and had a light green trim. Mother used this until she had to break up housekeeping. When it was sold along with all her household goods, August 28, 1976, the stove sold for more money than it had cost when we purchased it, which was around 1930. We also raised three acres of tomatoes another year, and this was harder work than beans. We picked them in containers called hampers; they were round, about thirty inches high, and held about one-half bushel. They were heavy. We sometimes worked for neighbors, weeding onions, and the pay was small. I don't remember my age, but Dad taught me to drive the car while living there.

My hair was still easy to care for. I cooked some kind of seed in quite a bit of water; this made a solution similar to wave set, which made it easy to wave my hair. At school I spent many noon recesses arranging hair for girl classmates. We all envied one girl who could afford to go to the beauty shop for "Marcel's" which were popular at that time. This was done with a hot curling iron and made deep waves. I never had one.

My first trip to Fort Wayne was made in 1932 or 1933 when we went to buy me a dress to wear to the Junior-Senior banquet. Mother had a friend who lived there. She met us and directed us to dress shops. I think it was a Lerner store where we bought it. Kermit was our driver. In those days we did not have proms, just a Junior-Senior banquet. The Seniors were guests of the Juniors. They hired a church ladies group to prepare a nice meal, and tables were spread on the gym floor. They decorated the gym, and had a program of music, readings, etc. No dancing.

In High School I took Home Economics, where I learned basic nursing care, cooking, sewing, etc. This was good training for me, as Mother did all the cooking at home. One recipe which I learned that was new to my family was escalloped potatoes. I still use it. I did not enjoy sewing, but did make a nice looking yellow dress which had three pleats on the left side of the skirt. I insisted on pressing it myself each time it was laundered, as I would take lots of time getting the pleats straight.

While we were living on this farm, Raymond attended Tri-State College and North Manchester College, began teaching, and married Naomi Putt in 1932. This left four children still at home. Kermit had graduated from Ashley High School in 1930 but was still at home. He worked around at many jobs. I remember that one summer he worked for the State Highway helping to build U.S. Road 27, going from Angola to Waterloo.

MORE ON RELATIVES

It was a custom in those days that near the time for the birth of a baby in the home, under-

age school children were sent to relatives till after the arrival of the baby. At the time of Betty's birth, Howard was at Grandpa's and I was at Aunt Mary Skelton's (Dad's sister) who lived on a farm near Edgerton, Ohio. They were wealthy enough to have a telephone. A thunder storm came up and lightning came through the telephone and across the room. No one was hurt, but the telephone had to be repaired, and I was very frightened. We did not have a telephone until we moved near Angola in 1935, and it took me several years to feel comfortable using one.

Some of Dad's relatives lived out West. His Aunt Celina Bell (Carolyn's note: I believe Salina is way she spelled it) who lived in Council Bluffs, Iowa, visited us several times, once coming alone, and driving her car, at age 82. She was richer than we were, and would mail us boxes of nice used clothing her family had outgrown. Mother and Aunt Mary Ann would re-make them for Betty and me. We were always happy to see those boxes arrive, even during my High School days. Kermit took Mother, Betty and me to visit her once. Dad never went. When Aunt Celina passed away, she had a will, and Dad received some money, but he never told us how much.

NOW A FEW WORDS ABOUT DAD

Dad was very strict, and generally we obeyed him, but he did punish us once in a while with a razor strap. This was a piece of leather about 24 inches long and about four inches wide. He used it every day to sharpen his straight edge razor. No one uses such razors now and razor straps are antique. (But we were not abused children.) Once when Howard was causing trouble during practice for a Children's Day Program at the Hamilton Methodist Church, Mother took off one shoe and paddled his behind all the way yp the aisle to the exit. The ladies directing the program respected Mother's discipline, and wished more parents would control their children.

Dad was a handy man, could do almost everything, and good to his family. I remember I used to have the earache, he would smoke his pipe, and blow the smoke into my ear, which made it feel better. When anyone was ill he would take out his pocket watch and take our pulse. Of course we did not have a thermometer, but Dad would put his hand on our forehead and he could tell if we had a fever or not. Just having him there and concerned about us made us feel better. Dad could sing, he played the Juice Harp, the Harmonica, and would even tap dance if encouraged a bit. His favorite songs were, "Dear Evalina" and "K-K-K-Katie." Dad always half-soled our shoes using a tool made for that purpose. It was made of heavy iron and was placed on the floor between Dad's legs. At about the height of his knees, he placed another piece of metal which was shaped like the sole of the shoe. He had three or four different sizes, so he could do adult or children's shoes. He placed the shoe with the sole up on the metal piece, put a new sole on it, and pounded nails in it. The new soles were purchased at the store and came in different sizes too.

Our cars were always having flat tires, and Dad patched them, using special patches and cement which he bought for that purpose. He loved to take us for rides, sometimes to the

home of friends, sometimes to explore new roads. He always smoked a pipe, but not in the house. He sometimes would bring a tame barn kitten into the house to hold it awhile. He played hide and seek with the kitty, moving his fingers slowly behind the bib of his overalls. And I must not forget to tell you he always bought his overalls much too large, and Mother had to shorten them. We always had a farm dog and barn kittens, but no house pets.

ABOUT MOTHER

Mother was a great one. When we were small she read a lot to us. She urged me to play the piano, and I was the only one to have music lessons. Howard and Betty learned at school. We have spent many hours, playing and singing together, and for company, and even entertainment at Dad and Mother's 50th anniversary celebration. Mother was a hard worker. She washed many years on the washboard, heating the water on the cook stove, and then had to carry the water out to empty it. (Many years she also had to carry all the household water into the house.) She had a gasoline powered washing machine at one time, but it was temperamental, and the men had to start it. She had her first electric washer after we moved to Angola in 1935. She always hung the laundry outdoors. Many times the lines would not hold it all, and we would put the older garments on the garden fence and even on the grass. (In the winter, the clothing would freeze as fast as it was placed on the line and then was brought in the house to finish drying.)

Mother baked the family bread, and on these days she always made a special pan of bread biscuits, hot for the noon meal, and she made a special yeast cinnamon roll on which she poured sweet cream over it before putting it in the oven. The cream would blend down through the rolls and thicken enough to be yummy. In later years she learned to make deep fried yeast rolls which she frosted. We now call them Long Johns. Cream was plentiful and she made cream pies, which the whole family always requested her to bring to Family Dinners. Even in her 80's she continued to make this special pie, which none of us have really accomplished. Another specialty was steamed pudding made with suet (beef fat) for shortening. As long as she was in her own home she would start making them in January. These took four hours to steam slowly and she used the wood range. She made one for each of her five children and told us it was our birthday gift. This pudding (cake) was served with a hot lemon sauce poured over it at serving time. The in-laws and grandchildren looked forward to it too. When it became popular to make chili, Mother would use white soup beans in it, because we did not raise red kidney beans, but it was good. She had some old fashioned remedies she made. Sassafras tea was always good for us; we sweetened our tea. If we had a cold she sometimes sliced onions vry thin, sprinkled some sugar and hot water over it. Then we drank the juice. If we had an upset stomach, the first medicine was soda water. As we improved she would pour boiling water over darkly toasted bread, and we drank the liquid. Then later we could eat the toast also. We ate milk toast for breakfast a lot. This was toast spread with lots of butter, then hot milk poured over it. She made a healing mixture for sores, smashed finger, etc., by taking a clean white cloth, put a juicy plant leaf called "Live Forever" on it, and smash till juicy. Then she bandaged it on the sore. If we were stung by a bee, she grabbed three kinds of weeds and rubbed the juice of these over the sting. For sore throats and chest

colds they took some kind of grease, I think lard, added Watkins Liniment and put it on our chest, then put a wool cloth over it. In later years we bought Vicks salve and used that.

SOME GAMES WE PLAYED

My favorite game at school was "Anti-I-Over" (could not find in dictionary) which had two teams of equal players with one ball. Find a building not too high (we always had corn cribs, hen houses, or lower buildings). Have a team on each side of the building. One person yells "Anti-I-Over" and throws the ball over the building. Someone on the other side catches it and throws it back. Continue until all are tired.

Other games were: Ring Around a Rosie, The Farmer in the Dell, Drop the Handkerchief, Jumping Rope, Softball, Cake Walks, Box Socials, and Roller Skating at the Hamilton Lake rink.

And on Saturday nights I summer, our parents went to town. We teen-age girls (always two or three) who knew each other well would walk around and around on the sidewalks in Hamilton, trying to get the attention of teen age boys. Surprised my parents allowed it.

In the spring of 1935, we moved to a farm one mile East of Angola, Indiana. This was the first farm our parents ever owned.

I think I have covered my growing up days as well as I can remember, and this is a good time to close. Perhaps another time I could cover my adult years.

COOLING FOODS

We did not have an ice box to keep our milk, butter and other perishable food cool, as so many city folks had. And we did not have an electric refrigerator until we moved to Angola in 1935.

We had to carry our food to the basement of our house as it was several degrees cooler. This required many steps up and down stairs when preparing and serving meals. I worked in one farm home which had a "butler" to move the food up and down the stairs. This was a pulley type shelf built in one corner of the kitchen as part of the cupboard. Food was placed on the shelf and lowered to the basement by rope or chain, where it remained till one pulled it up to the kitchen again.

SUN TEA

Sun tea is very popular now. But Mother made it years ago. There were no tea bags, but she used loose tea, put it in a two quart canning jar with water. Then she set it in the sun, almost always out by the windmill. By noon it was ready to use. She always added sugar as our family liked it sweet.

THE MILKHOUSE

We sometimes had a special little building to cool the milk and store it. The milk was carried from the barn and put in large crocks to cool. After the milk had set several hours or overnight, the cream would rise to the top. The cream was used in the house for table use, for cream pies, to whip and to make into butter. The skim milk was carried back to the barn where it was mixed with ground grain in a large barrel, and stirred with long stick. Dad would carry this mixture (called slop) by pails and dump it into wooden troughs for the pigs to eat. They were anxious to eat, and would push each other out of the way, making lots of grunting noise. This was called slopping the hogs.

In later years we had a milk separator. A person used a crank to turn wheels, the large bowl of milk would travel down through several parts, and separate cream and skim milk. The cream came out one spout into a jar, the milk came out another spout into a pail. This separator was very difficult to wash, as it had so many discs and spouts, etc. We would pour a pail of cold water through it each day. But at least once a week it had to be taken apart, and each little piece washed, scaled and dried.

MOTHER'S COPPER CLAD STOVE

Mother's copper clad kitchen range had a reservoir which was filled with rain water. It was located farthest from the fire box, but enough heat would reach it, that the water was warm. It was used to wash dishes, and to shampoo hair.

The stove also had a warming oven above the cooking level, about eye level. This was convenient to use to keep prepared foods warm. Mother always placed her loaves of bread in the warming oven to let them rise.

The oven temperature was controlled by the amount of fire in the stove. Not as convenient as a modern gas or electric stove, where you just turn the control to the desired temperature. The housewife built the fire and added just enough wood or coal to keep the fire going steady, and to keep the temperature needed for the product she was baking. Mother seemed to be an expert at this, as I do not remember of any burned food, and she baked many pies, cakes, cookies, biscuits, etc.

MILKING

The men usually did the milking, but if they needed to work in the fields late, Virginia and Mother would do it. Also, I would help if we wanted to get the chores done early so we

could go some place.

BOY SCOUT CLUB

Howard was the only one in our family to be a member of the Boy Scouts of America. We were living on the Daniels farm, and attended the United Brethren Church in Waterloo, Indiana. The minister, Rev. Earnest Llewellyn, was the scout master. He is the one who influenced Howard to join the scouts. I remember he attended camp one summer and we made a trip out there for a special family day. We toured the home Gene Stratton Porter, located in the Limberlost Park. She was a famous Indiana author. She had passed away, but her home and the many rock gardens, wild flowers, stone paths, birds, etc. had been preserved - and open to the public. It was a beautiful area. I suppose Howard did all the things required of a boy scout, but I do not remember of it.

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

I don't know the exact year, nor the reason that we began to attend revival meetings at Hamilton. I do know that we lived on the Daniel farm. These meetings were held on the second floor of a large building which had a restaurant below. The room was bare, just a piano and folding wooden chairs. The evangelist was Rev. Charles Brand, a part time farmer who lived near Ashley. He was an old time preacher, who held the Bible in his hands, and walked around the pulpit gesturing with his hands a lot. I remember one time he was preaching about the evils of this world, one item being lipstick. He asked one from the congregation to go down to the restaurant and bring up a used coffee cup from one of the tables. It had a large red print of lipstick on the rim. This was his example of one of the evils. He drew quite a congregation and a church was organized (Church of the Nazarene), services being held at the same location for several years. We joined. Several ministers were assigned. I played piano for most services.

Our special friends were the Carl Tubbs family of Hudson, Indiana and the McKeanes of near Waterloo. They both had young children, several about our ages, too. We went to each other's homes for Sunday dinner often. After dinner we would gather around the piano (with me playing) and all sing, mostly church hymns.

Mother had two special friends, Mable Robertson and Marguerite Polston from Fort Wayne. They often came to our home on the Daniels farm and would stay a week or more. They were devout Christians, and attended many revival services for miles around the Fort Wayne area. The evangelists liked to have them present, as their prayers were deep and inspiring.

MOTHER'S SHORTCAKE

Mother made shortcake often, strawberry, raspberry, etc. She made biscuit dough which was made from scratch - no mixes in those days. She rolled the dough about ½ inch thick, placed it in a cake or pie pan, and buttered the top. Then she rolled another piece the

same size, and placed it on top of the buttered layer. Put it in a hot oven to bake. When ready to serve she would delicately removed the top layer and put sugared fruit on the bottom layer, then put the second layer on top of the fruit and put more fruit on the top of the second layer. She usually made several pans of shortcake and cut each one in four sections. (This preparation was all done at the table with all of us watching her with anxious, longing eyes.) It was then eaten with rich milk and more sugar if necessary. I would watch her making these and say, "Mom, why do you do all that work? Just make one deeper layer and cut it in half to make the two layers you want. That would be so much easier." She would reply, "That's the way I have always done it."

CURING MEAT

After the butchering was done, we had to keep it from spoiling. The hams and bacon chunks were soaked in very salty brine for several days. This preserved the meat. Sometimes it was taken to a small building called the smoke house. Each piece would be hung from the ceiling, and a slow smoky fire was built. The meat hung in the smoke house several days, and it gave the meat a good flavor. In later years we used the dry cure. This was a mixture of salt, brown sugar, some spices, and sometimes a smoky spice. The meat was placed on boards, or a table, and the mixture was rubbed in by hand. This was repeated every day for a couple of weeks. The meat was now cured and would keep for months.

Sometimes we fried down sausage. It was placed in a roaster and slowly baked in the oven until cooked thoroughly, but not brown (could also do it in skillets on top of the stove, but one had to watch it carefully to not get it too brown or hard.) After the meat was cooked, it was placed in gallon crocks and entirely covered with melted lard. This was to make sure no air could reach the meat and cause spoilage. It was then carried to the cool basement to be used as needed.

IRONING

Ironing was a drudgery, no nice electric irons with temperature set controls. The first ones I used were one piece, the handle and the flat part were molded together. These were placed on the kitchen range to get hot. We had to use a hot pad over the handle, as it became quite hot also. We would set up the ironing board, not far from the stove as many trips would be made to get a hotter iron. As soon as the iron cooled off, we carried it back to the stove to heat again, then picked up a hot iron and go back to ironing again. Also, we ironed many more clothes that we do now - we had no "wash and wear" materials. Some ladies ironed sheets, dish towels, overalls, and even socks. But with our family of seven, believe me, we cut corners. In later years irons were made of lighter material and came in two pieces. The handle part clamped over the flat part. Then after we moved to Angola, we had our first electric iron.

KEROSENE STOVES

Our kitchens were very hot in summer with the wood ranges to cook on. Some homes had a "summer kitchen." This was a room just off the kitchen, which usually had a washing machine, an extra supply of wood, and a kerosene stove. This was used during hot weather. Some homes even had a gas stove which used gasoline under pressure. The air was hand pumped into the gasoline tank. The burners were lit by a match, and it made quite a bit of noise as it burned. But it made a hotter blaze than our kerosene stoves. Mother was afraid of these (gasoline stoves), so we never had one. But Naomi had one when she and Raymond were married in 1932. We did have a kerosene stove, but it was smelly, and not always in working order.

After we moved to Angola in 1935, we bought a used dri- gas stove to be used in summer. This used bottled gas and was powered by tanks of bottled gas which were placed on the back porch. The fuel was piped into the stove. We always had two tanks, so when one became empty, the connection would be clamped on the full tank. These were purchased in town.

CHURNING

Churning was not an easy task. The cream was skimmed off the milk and kept in a jar several days to mature a bit. If the cream was very sweet, it took a long time of churning to become butter. If the cream was too sour, the butter would have a sour displeasing taste. So there was a fine point where the cream was ready to use.

There were many kinds of churns, wooden, glass, crock material, etc. The one I remember using was a wooden barrel looking one, fastened to a wood frame with legs which sat on the floor. The churn had a handle attached and one person (usually me or Betty) would turn the barrel over and over. The cream would slop around in the churn, and the motion would separate the liquid from the butterfat. Now this old churn leaked each time it made a revolution, so we always placed newspapers on the floor to catch the drippings. After the butterfat had separated, the contents were put in a wooden bowl. With a wooden batter more of the liquid could be worked out, and finally produced firm butter. This was then shaped into a round shape and a fancy design made on top.

BREAD BAKING

Mother baked all our bread. She kept a crock of starter on the back part of the wood range, farthest away from the fire box, to keep it warm and fermented. By using this, she did not need to buy yeast. She put the flour in a large dishpan (kept for this purpose) and added some of the starter, not all of it, as some had to be kept to use the next time. She would add more milk, a bit of sugar, and some flour to the starter and put it back on the stove to ferment for the next baking day. Then she would proceed to mix the bread, adding flour and liquid if needed. Then she placed it on a pastry board and mixed it with her hands; this is called kneading. The dough is placed in bread pans and put in a warm place to rise. After an hour or two it was ready to bake. She always made one pan into biscuits for us to eat at noon.

MEMOIRS OF GROWING UP

This starter was also used to make buckwheat pancakes. This had to be mixed the night before and allowed to rise all night. The pancakes were so light and tasty, the aroma was special - and we all like them. We used maple syrup, which our family made from our maple trees. Mother's stove top had four round openings, the remainder was all flat iron on which she could bake about 12 pancakes at one time.

The buckwheat pancake mix which we buy today in the stores is nothing compared to the ones Mother made. They do not have that yeasty taste.

My mother was born in 1892. My Dad would have been 12 and Aunt Mary, his sister, was 9. He raised those two children alone until then. He was killed at the age of 62 when the horses ran away with the binder that Grandma was riding. My mother saw this happen when she was pregnant. The baby immediately died.

I went to school at Crinked Lake School House seven years, then was taken by bus to Sand Hill School for one year, then on to Angola High School.

My Dad raised lots of pigs. We separated the cream from the skim milk with a cream separator, and the cream was sold and skim milk fed to the pigs. He tried to raise enough pigs that he would have at least 100 when it was time to sell them. I used to sit in the swing on the front porch and watch those cute tiny-pink baby pigs.

I loved the baby calves, and we always had many cats and kittens. My Dad and Mom used to squirt milk in those cats' mouths while they were milking, and the cats used to line up back of the cows to be squirted at.

I always enjoyed going back to the pasture field with my dad after the cows. For many years we had this one cow that used to chase me when she had a calf. I sure didn't like her but she had such a large bag of milk it would just swing and almost hit the ground (it hung so low).

Each summer when I was in my teens, I'd go and stay two weeks with Aunt Mary and Uncle Heim at Willard, Ohio. That was fun as Gene, my cousin, always walked me up town to the theater and afterwards fix ice cream at the town soda fountain (Uncle Heim) paying for all of it.)

Each summer we'd go about 50 miles from where Aunt Mary lived to Sandusky, Ohio, where we'd get on the ferry and go to Cedar Point (a very

MEMORIES OF GROWING UP
ELEANOR MILLER RENSCH

I remember my Dad telling about his mother's death of TB when he was very young, 6 years old, and his sister Mary was about 3. Grandpa (Marcus) was a farmer and he would take Mary and put her under a tree while he plowed, etc., and my Dad (Guy) had to look after her for hours all alone. Grandpa (Marcus) didn't remarry until 1892. My Dad would have been 12 and Aunt Mary, his sister, was 9. He raised those two children alone until then. He was killed at the age of 62 when the horses ran away with the binder that Grandpa was riding. My mother saw this happen when she was pregnant. The baby immediately died.

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Each summer we'd go about 50 miles from where Aunt Mary lived to Sandusky, Ohio, where we'd get on the ferry and go to Cedar Point (a very

nice well publicized amusement park).

In those days when I was a kid, the neighbors brought their teams of horses and equipment to Crooked Lake each winter when the ice was thick enough and would cut large pieces of ice and store them in a large ice house on the lake bank. This was covered below, above, and all sides with sawdust to keep the ice cold. Then each farmer had their own small ice shack near their separate houses and would get the ice from the large house and store some at home to be used in the ice box in the house.

Up until I was about 13, we had lamps (kerosene) and gas lights hanging from the center of the ceiling in two rooms.

When I was quite young we had a round supply tank filled with drinking water in one corner of the dining room. There was a wooden box around this and a wood hinged lid we'd lift and then dip our tin cup in the water for our drinks.

We had a cistern build of stone and concrete under the back porch where rain water coming from the eaves on the house was stored. In the kitchen we had a cistern pump at a sink, then on the end of the wood cook stove we'd take a small pail full over to the sink and put it in a wash basin to wash our faces, etc. with nice warm water.

When we took baths, we'd use this same warm water from the stove but put it in a large round tub which was kept hanging on the wall on the back porch. We would place this tub on the kitchen floor near the cook stove. For many years my job was to keep this water tank on the end of the stove filled with water.

When I was in the upper grades (probably 6th or 7th), Russell (my brother) and Carlton Chase from Angola (later President of the First National Angola Bank) build an ice boat in a shop near our house. I used to take my homework for school out to the shop where Russell worked and would study and be with him.

This ice boat had three runners and had a steering wheel, windshield, and was propelled by a Model A Ford motor with a 6 foot airplane propeller. It had red velvet cushions that came from my Dad's old sleigh. The runners slipped

off and wheels with rubber tires were assembled in their place and it was transported from home to Crooked Lake, Lake James and Silver Lake where the owners took people riding many Sunday afternoons for free. I almost always went along and would ice skate.

One Sunday in about 1938, Russell and Cleon Wells (our first cousin) were riding the ice boat on Lake James. It was a warm day for winter, and there was water on the ice. Russell saw this water but thought it was only from thawing, but instead it was a channel of open water due to springs. Luckily they were going so fast the front runners dropped into the open water but the tail of the ice boat flipped up over onto solid ice. Russell and Cleon got hurt with cuts to their faces. The frightened Russell, and the ice boat was no more. (Many memories!)

Marshall and Goldie (my older brother and sister-in-law) lived very close to our home and he farmed with my Dad. Their children, Betty, Mary, Mark and Shirley, were like brother and sisters to me as I saw them so much. I was only about six years older than Betty, the oldest.

Until I was about 13 or 14, we did not have indoor plumbing, so we had a toilet that was in a pig lot where (in the spring) there were about three small "A" shaped pig houses where there were three mothers and many tiny baby pigs. To go to the toilet, I'd watch until the big mothers (sows) were nowhere to be seen or I could see them far enough away that I could open the gate and go into the toilet. Many times before I'd come out, the sows would know I was in there, and they'd come and rub their backs on the building. Since they are cross many times when they have babies, I'd really holler for my mother to come and rescue me. She'd take a large stick and drive the sows away. (What kids miss these days!)

One year when I was about 12 years old, we were having a reunion at our house. So Mama told me that because of having so many children there and they might tip over the bowl occupied with goldfish and little turtles, I'd better take it upstairs and put it in Russell's bedroom until after the reunion. I did just that, but set it on a tall slender stand back of his bed. Well, in the middle of the night, Russell accidentally bumped the stand, and water, goldfish, turtles and all dumped in his bed. Needless to say, I wasn't very popular the next morning!

He and I slept upstairs (he in the large bedroom to the north and me in the little room at the south). In the winter there was absolutely no heat in our rooms from the start of winter until spring, and our breath would freeze on the covers around our mouths. I believe we were healthier then, than in our warm rooms now.

We (Russell, our friends, and I) spent many evenings and some Sunday afternoons tobogganing at the Pokagon State Park. Russell owned a small toboggan that held two people and a large one that would hold five. He put steel runners (very narrow) on both sleds and we could trip ourselves and go down when it looked like there was no one on the slide. Boy, those sleds really went fast. Someone in the group always drove to the bottom of the slide. We'd load the sled in their trunk and ride up to the ramp. Such fun!

Mother and Dad were determined that all their children would graduate from high school and encouraged those who went on to college. Remember, in those days many children, especially boys, were often removed from school at an early age to work with the farm work. When Dad was about 30 years old, the family had gathered enough money together to make a down payment on a 100 acre farm, and from then on our finances improved. As for gifts, there were very few wrapped gifts. As we children matured and secured summer work, there would be more gifts at Christmas and birthdays. I recall always having a special cake on my birthday and other material to make a dress or something a ready-made dress. Our celebrations were mostly every Sunday - with friends coming to our home or my family invited somewhere, and always there was music. My sister, Virginia, played piano, my brother, Howard, played guitar, and I played violin and mandolin. We had no radio and, of course, no TV. We did not have electricity until I was 14 years of age. Each night during the school year, the dining table would be wiped clean and all four of us gathered around one oil lamp. The oldest brother, Raymond, started teaching school the year I started to school. He taught for 33 years, most of those years in a one room school. My second brother, Kenneth, read Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, Robert Louis Stevenson, and one of my favorite series was the Robbery Twins.

I went to a one-room school and never experienced the one room school. We rode a school bus for nearly an hour to get to school. We carried our lunches and saved a "granola" for the long trip home. We did not have a gymnasium, but played outside on those wonderful new swings, slides and merry-go-round. We had all twelve grades in the same building, so always I had an older sibling close by.

One of the chores of farmers was to load up the wagons or trailers, the sacks of grain they had grown and haul it to town to the grain mill to be ground and mixed in the desired proportions, then to bring it home and unload the bags of ground grain to be fed to the livestock. My brother, Kenneth, designed a grinding mill which he set up to be run by a gas-chef powered engine which was all mounted on a big truck. This he drove from farm

BETTY MCCOLLUM

My parents were Elva Mae Everetts and Harley Rensch. They were both born in DeKalb County, Indiana and lived to be 90 and 80 years of age, respectively. They always lived within a twenty mile radius of their birthplaces. Harley was a day laborer for many years and although he was allowed to attend school through the third grade only, he was a self taught individual. He could take a two digit column of figures and add the two columns at one time. There were six children born to this union, the first child was deceased at six months of age. My mother attended school through the eighth grade which was all the schooling offered at that time in her community. Both parents were avid readers, and since there was no library in the area, we always had books in our home, many purchased at auctions of neighbor's households. Until her final illness, my mother could recite poems she learned in the first grade (and heard repeated year after year in her one-room school as succeeding classes learned the same poetry).

Mother and Dad were determined that all their children would graduate from high school and encouraged those who wished to go on to college. Remember, in those days many children, especially boys, were often removed from school at an early age to assist with the farm work. When Dad was about 50 years old, the family had gathered enough money together to make a down payment on a 100 acre farm, and from then on our finances improved. As for gifts - there were very few wrapped gifts. As we children matured and secured summer work there would be more gifts at Christmas and birthdays. I recall always having a special cake on my birthday and either material to make a dress or sometimes a ready-made dress. Our celebrations were nearly every Sunday - with friends coming to our home or our family invited somewhere, and always there was music. My sister, Virginia, played piano, my brother, Howard, played guitar, and I played violin and mandolin. We had no radio and, of course, no TV. We did not have electricity until I was 14 years of age. Each night during the school year, the dining table would be wiped clean and all four of us gathered around one oil lamp. The oldest brother, Raymond, started teaching school the year I started to school. He taught for 35 years, most of those years in a one room school. My second brother, Kermit, read Shakespeare, Edgar Allen Poe, Robert Louis Stevenson, and one of my favorite series was the Bobbsey Twins.

I went to a consolidated school and never experienced the one room school. We rode a school bus for nearly an hour to get to school; we carried our lunches and saved a "goodie" for the long trip home. We did not have a gymnasium, but played outside on those wonderful new swings, slides and merry-go-round. We had all twelve grades in the same building, so always I had an older sibling close by.

One of the chores of farmers was to load up, on wagons or trailers, the sacks of grain they had grown and haul it to town to the grist mill to be ground and mixed in the desired proportions, then to bring it home and unload the bags of ground grain to be fed to the livestock. My brother, Kermit, designed a grinding mill which he set up to be run by a gasoline powered motor which was all mounted on a big truck. This he drove from farm

to farm and the farmers were able to get their grain ground in their own barnyards.

Potatoes were grown by the acres, and at harvesting time would be dug and then buried in deep holes and covered over with dirt to insulate them against freezing in the zero weather of winter. Kermit would purchase these potatoes and after uncovering them would run them over a table of different size screens, thus sorting them into small, medium and large. These then we funneled through a hopper and bagged. He would then load these bags onto his truck and truck them to markets to be sold wholesale.

My brother, Raymond, went to college, and to assist with his costs, he would work summers for a farmer with large acreage. At that time it seemed to me that he was hundreds of miles away, while in reality I have since discovered that the distance was probably about 20 miles and easily driven in a short time. When he went to college in North Manchester - this was indeed, quite a trip, and Friday evening as he was due to arrive home was always a time of great expectancy - for sometimes he came with a special treat - a big bag of bananas. Mother would hurry around and prepare shortcake and that was one real treat. I rather doubt that anyone else ever had this, and I must have lost my "kid taster" for when I have prepared it in recent years, it is just not so tasty!

Most of our fun seemed to be working together and the basketball games. All of the brothers played basketball, and the family attended the home games. I remember one Thanksgiving the big game was played away from home, and Kermit came home famished. (No such thing as a treat for the team by the school in those days.) And when he came home he found the dish of cranberry sauce Mother had prepared for the next day - and he ate the whole thing!

A home-made game that Howard and I played a great deal was a board on which open hooks were placed - each hook having a number under it. Mother gave us her used red canning jar rubbers, and as we stood at a certain distance we would toss these rubbers and hopefully hook them onto the larger numbers. I think we played checkers, we popped corn, picked out walnuts and did a lot of reading. There were no electric lights, so this made it conducive for us to study around the dining room table, and since the house was none too warm, we had a tendency to stay in the same rooms and close off the far reaches. If beans had been the bill-of-fare, we were loudly excused by Dad and sent to another room until we had better control. There were times when we would gather the first snow and Mother would put sugar and vanilla with some cream on it and we had "Tootie-Fruiti," I think we called it.

In the summer Dad would take us for rides on a Sunday afternoon. At least once a year he would drive down toward Butler and take us by the place where he was born (I should say land - for the buildings were now all gone). He delighted to get out and walk across the land and try to find the spring where his mother had gotten the water for the family. We would drive by the farm Grandpa Slentz had owned at one time - he had built the house and barn - and from this home he had trudged off down the lane to the Civil War - probably going to Butler to catch up with others going also. Then we always went by the

little house where Grandma and Grandpa Everetts had lived and where he had a barber shop - but they it seems to me that Grandpa also had a barber shop at Steubenville - so I am not sure. (Note from Carolyn: The barbershop was at Artic - I know because my father inherited the proclivity for Sunday afternoon drives) At least, I am sure that this little house sat on the corner of the land that Grandpa Everetts' father had homesteaded. The Squires' big house was close by and the brick school (two rooms?) where at least three of my siblings went to school. Then we always had to go in and through the old covered bridge nearby. My third brother, Howard, had been born on a very cold, stormy January night, and Dad went for the doctor early to be sure he would be there and not out in the storm - and he and Dad sat by the pot belly stove all night - drinking coffee and I suppose boiling the proverbial teakettle for hot water. I was born across the creek from this covered bridge - the road and buildings are all gone, but the site was always pointed out to us on these Sunday afternoon rides.

Another of the great joys of Sunday afternoon was when Dad decided tht we would go over to Circle Park. I do not recall swimming in Hamilton Lake on these outings, but Dad would pitch horseshoes with some of his buddies there - Mother would find friends to visit with, sitting on park benches under the trees. And Virginia and I would walk around, enjoying the lake and the trees and watch the kids skate in the older skating rink which overlooked the lake. This park was usually cool and it was so much fun to meet girlfriends and just giggle and talk - or make new friends - with all kinds of promises to write. But all too soon, we were herded back to the car and home to do those never ending, always calling chores - you know, cows, etc! We had a cousin (really Mother's double cousin) and his wife who ha a popcorn machine there at the park. In the winter, they would go to Florida and I think sold popcorn at a park there. But usually we did not spend our money on popcorn; we could have that at home. It was popular at that time to freeze candy bars, and my favorite was the Milky Way bar after it was frozen. Sometimes we got an ice cream bar instead.

The farm work for the most part was done by the men and boys in our family. There were some jobs that we two sisters and Mother would be asked to do. One of these jobs was milking by hand and the whole family pitched in for this job until most of the children were away from home on their own, we had moved to a farm with electricity, and Dad got an electric milker (and less cows too - if my memory is correct). There was one cow in particular who hated women, and I do not know the reasoning behind the situation, but this cow was assigned to my sister to milk. She would have to pull back her hair and wear a man's cap in order to get through the ordeal. I do not recall milking for many years, nor being very productive at the job when I did do it.

Another job that my sister and I did in teamwork and became very proficient at was the spring planting of the tomato plants. Dad contracted with the Van Camp Canning Factory to raise (13 acres was it, really?) of tomatoes. The plants were furnished by the factory and the planter was also rented from them. This was a tedious process where she and I sat on either side of a machine which dug a trench, the plant was held until a shot of water hit the hole and the roller had packed the dirt around the plant. Then while the other person

went through this process, the alternate worker would get another plant sorted and in hand ready for the next squirt of water and roller, etc. The worst part about this work was the sitting all day long - with legs stretched out in front and the fact that we were so close to the ground and it seemed to a kid's eyes, practically under the horse! Now Dad had a crippled horse and I was always terrified that the horse would stumble and fall on me. No amount of reassurance from Dad or the boys could convince me that I was very safe. So many times, I was humored and allowed to crawl off (up or out) while he turned the corner and then back on again to go down another row.

We were sometimes also called upon to help with the hay making and always when it was hay making time we tried to relieve the men of as many chores as possible so they could spend the time in the fields.

The local J. C. Penney Store was a source of great wonderment whenever we shopped there. There was a lot of individualized attention when we shopped there. And after your purchase had been selected, the clerk would write up the bill and put your money in a little round cylinder which was attached to a pulley system. These pulleys ran from various cashier desks throughout the store. A rope would pull the round cylinder to an office located on the balcony of the store. This balcony was an open office, from which the store manager and the main clerk could look out over the entire store. The cylinder would arrive at the main clerk's desk, she would use the cash register, make the change and send the cylinder back to the clerk serving the customer. It was such fun to watch your particular money travel to the clerk, watch the money being counted and registered and then returned. And in those days - there was time. The clerk serving you would wrap your purchase and then visit with you while waiting for the cylinder to return.

Another source of amazement, as a small child, was a trip to the Ransburg Store in Pleasant Lake. This store seemed to specialize in men's suits and shoes for the entire family. The shoe department was shelves and shelves of shoes - stretching way up to the ceiling which must have been 12 or 14 feet high. I can recall the clerk using a step stool for some of the boxes. And then there was a sliding ladder - was it attached to a track from the ceiling? At any rate, the clerk (usually a man) would climb to the top of this ladder and then often had to use a special fork to get the particular box desired. And I always hoped that the shoes some one in our family selected would require that climb and that fork!

The store really modernized when they put in a line of ladies' clothing and had self-service shoes! But for the men, when a suit was purchased from the Ransburg Brothers, one knew that it would fit and wear well.

As the depression took its toll on the farmers and merchants alike, some innovative means of earning and living and having fun were developed. The merchants in Hamilton put on a free show. This was nothing more than an empty lot between two buildings, with a bunch of backless benches placed on the ground. And in the summer a free show was sponsored by the merchants to bring people into town. As I recall, Mother would take her eggs and

cream (I do not recall selling butter) to town with us and she would "trade" them for her sugar, spices and possibly cake flour. Dad and the boys always ground our wheat for flour and it was stored in an empty dry spot. This flour was used for pies, bread and rolls. But there was very little purchasing at the store - the farm was quite self-supporting and supplying. Then Dad would go pump his own gas - this was done by means of a hand pump at the gas station - and sometimes the station attendant pumped it for us. When these errands were done, we could go watch the free show.

In the afternoon - if the temperamental oil stove worked - if the tricky popcorn popped well (we always seemed to have problems getting it just the right moisture content) - we would open up the popcorn we had brought from home and sit on the hard benches and enjoy a movie. I really do not know what movies we saw - but I do recall seeing one that was very, very scary to me. On the way home - after all the kids were rounded up, we would start for home - and Mother would wrap her old black shawl around me and I would sleep all the way home.

One of the occasions which I remember with great humor was my Sunday visit with the dentist's twin daughters in Waterloo. They went to the same church we did in Waterloo and invited me to go to their home for Sunday dinner and fun in the afternoon. Now, in my eyes this was a wealthy family and I really had to remember my best manners, which was difficult for me. After dinner, I remember the parents gave us some money and told us we could go get some ice cream at the drug store. I asked for a cone and the girls said, oh, no - you surely must want a sundae. I had no idea what that was, but I got one and really enjoyed it. And do you know - it was years before I realized that you could buy a sundae any day of the week, and not just on Sunday!

As mentioned earlier - My mother when I was a very, very small child was very style conscious. I can recall Mother saying even when she had reached her 80's that her children were always well dressed, because she had a sewing machine and was able to design and make clothing for us. I can recall one Christmas when the farm income was very, very poor. This finally hit home to me as a young child, when my Christmas gift was a length of material for a new dress - and that was all! But we always had lots of food and fun around the table, and everyone else (almost) were as poor as we were. At any rate, going back to Mother and the styles of the day - before the Big Depression hit - Mother went to town to a hair dresser and got a marcel. Well, her hair was curly and pretty for several days and then - straight again. And so she heard about permanents - and decided she would get one of those. Now the boys and myself (my sister may have been wise to it) we all thought that permanent meant just that. But in a few weeks/months - her hair was no longer curly. And we teased her unmercifully about her "permanent."

After that escapade, and the Depression upon us, we resorted to curling irons. Now remember, we did not have electricity and so the iron was laid across the stove or across the top of an oil lamp and heated and then the hair wound around it. There was no way of being sure how hot the iron was, but I recall hearing Mother test it with some water to see if it would sizzle. Many a woman burnt her hair to an unsightly mess in those days. Now

can you imagine my surprise that curling irons (this time electric with some thermostatic controls) have again returned to use?

I so wanted to have curly hair - and that was just not in my genes. My sister had the curly hair - and she tried so hard to straighten her hair! Mother would roll my hair on a soft roller made of rags, and then wrap the roller and hair with another strip of rag, and I would sleep on these all night. And then, scarcely comb or brush - or it would all be out and straight again.

One job for the farm wife was making soap. There was no such thing as Ivory Snow on the store shelves in those days. Cakes of soap were available, but were often unwrapped, or plain wrapped. The farm wife would save all her grease - the salty as well as the unsalted. The grease pot was kept near the stove on a cupboard and as chops and bacon were fried, the grease would be poured off. When the pot became full it would be drained into a crock and set aside for soap making day. I have no recipe for the purifying of the grease nor for the soap itself. But I do know that the grease went through a purifying process and then with just the right amount of lye and water (and some heat?) the soap was processed. There were varying degrees of hardness - some soft, some clear and white for bath soap, and some for laundry. On laundry day (or the night before) the cakes of soap would be grated to make the chips for the laundry. The soap making process was smelly and usually done in the summer or on a nice day when the back porch could be used.

Oxydol was one of the first laundry soaps I recall and also Ivory Soap, and these may have been available, but because of the thrifty nature of the farm wife, the grease was used, rather than purchasing "store boughten" goods.

Another fact of life on the farm was butchering. As I recall, Dad and Mother hired a man and his wife to assist on butchering day - and it was a long hard day for all involved - because, you see, the other routine jobs had to be done as well- the cows had to be fed and milked, the horses, pigs, calves, sheep all had to be cared for. I think a great deal of preparation was done the days prior to the big day. In the first place - it needed to be a cold day - because there was no refrigeration available. I do not recall butchering beef and pork the same day, since the processes are different, and since there is so much work involved in both processes.

The hog or beef would be shot and then hung to bleed. This shot would often awaken me on butchering day - and I would look out my upstairs bedroom window to see a fire burning brightly in the darkness of the early morning on a cold January day. This fire would be burning under a huge copper kettle that was filled with water and heated to scalding temperature. Then the hog would be dunked up and down in this scalding water until the hairs could be scraped from the skin. The tasks of cleaning the intestines for stuffing of sausage, the jobs of cutting up the meat into useable pieces for pork chops, the bacon and hams gotten ready to go into a brine of salt for curing and the scraps (with I think a whole shoulder) were ground and seasoned into sausage. This ground mixture

was then put in a press which forced the sausage out through a small round opening over which had been threaded the cleaned intestines. Some of these sausages would be hung in the smoke house to be cured and smoked and others would be placed in crocks a layer at a time, with melted lard covering each layer. I am not sure if the sausage was cooked before either of the above processes but I rather doubt it. After the hams had been salt cured, they too were carried to the smoke house and hung there. The smoking process was simple enough and I think Dad always wanted hickory wood for this.

The couple who came to help worked with Mother and Dad, but it was still a long hard day. Mother would take the head and cook it and then pick the meat off it. The meat was used for her home made mince meat and also for a type of jelled and vinegared meat - I think we called it souse. Probably German origin.

There was a difference in cutting up the meat, and Mother and Dad would discuss how they would do the hogs - for we always butchered more than one hog at a time. One method would produce pork chops and the other way would produce back bone with that wonderful boneless pork loin - yum! So some of the hogs would be cut each way to make more variety.

I do not recall so much the butchering of the beef. I am sure that this animal was skinned and the skin sold. There also was no stuffing of casings and so there was not this meticulous work. However, there was still the cutting up and the grinding of the scraps and some of the good meat to make the ground beef. This beef would be hung to age for some time - how long? - and then it would be cut as we could use it, and a good portion was cut in chunks and then canned. This canned beef made wonderful beef and noodles, stews, and when opened and drained could be fried rather crisp. Similar beef is available at some local meat markets today. The canned beef was saved for the hot summer weather, because by the time hot weather arrived it was necessary that all the fresh meat be used - so there was no more fresh pork or beef during the summer months.

Family Group Sheet**Husband: Raymond D Rensch**

Born: September 05, 1908
Married: September 02, 1932
Died: February 02, 1999
Father: Harley Rensch
Mother: Elva May Evertts

in: Butler, DeKalb County, Indiana
in: Angola, Indiana
in: Angola, Pleasant, Steuben, Indiana

Wife: Naomi Brugh Putt

Born: December 18, 1910
Died: April 03, 1995
Father: Frank Putt
Mother: Maude Belle Brugh

in: DeKalb County, Indiana
in: Angola, Indiana

CHILDREN

1 F	Name: Carolyn Elouise Rensch Born: November 04, 1933 Married: June 05, 1955 Spouse: Frederick Florian Cripe	in: Hudson, Steuben County, Indiana in: Butler, DeKalb County, Indiana
2 M	Name: Lyle Harley Rensch Born: December 19, 1934 Died: December 20, 1934	in: Fairfield, DeKalb, Indiana in: Fairfield, DeKalb, Indiana

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Frederick Florian Cripe

Born: August 19, 1932 in: Chelan County, Washington
 Married: June 05, 1955 in: Butler, DeKalb County, Indiana

Wife: Carolyn Elouise Rensch

Born: November 04, 1933 in: Hudson, Steuben County, Indiana
 Father: Raymond D Rensch
 Mother: Naomi Brugh Putt

CHILDREN

1	Name: Frederick Florian Cripe	
M	Born: September 15, 1957	in: Chicago, Illinois
	Married: September 16, 1989	in: Steuben County, Indiana
	Spouse: Beth Ann Lee	
2	Name: Lisa Marie Cripe	
F	Born: July 18, 1959	in: Ontario, Oregon
	Married: May 05, 1989	in: Fremont, Steuben, Indiana
	Spouse: Scott Donaho	
3	Name: Daniel Nathan Cripe	
M	Born: November 02, 1962	in: Angola, Indiana
	Married: February 18, 1992	in: Austin, Texas
	Spouse: Karen Wilson	
4	Name: Katrina Adele Cripe	
F	Born: August 01, 1968	in: Angola, Indiana
	Married: October 22, 1988	in: Angola, Indiana
	Spouse: Richard Gutknecht	

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Kermit Lendel Rensch

Born: April 28, 1911
 Married: March 18, 1945 in: Steuben County, Indiana
 Died: May 31, 1996 in: Kendallville, Noble County, Indiana
 Father: Harley Rensch
 Mother: Elva May Evertts

Wife: Doris Harter

Born: August 10, 1914

CHILDREN

1	Name: Charlene Sue Rensch	
F	Born: November 09, 1950	
2	Name: Harley Harvey Rensch	
	Born: November 06, 1954	in: Angola, Indiana
M	Married:	
	Spouse: Deborah Jean Clark	
	Married: March 22, 1988	
	Spouse: Judy Deetz Hissong	

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Harley Harvey Rensch

Born: November 06, 1954

in: Angola, Indiana

Married: March 22, 1988

Father: Kermit Lendel Rensch

Mother: Doris Harter

Other Spouses: Deborah Jean Clark

Wife: Judy Deetz Hissong

Born: October 19, 1956

CHILDREN

I	Name: Matthew Corbin Rensch
M	Born: February 23, 1989

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Hershel Cole

Born: January 06, 1904	in: Scott Township, Steuben County, Indiana
Married: December 21, 1941	in: Angola, Indiana
Died:	in: Scott Township, Steuben County, Indiana

Wife: Virginia Dale Rensch

Born: August 31, 1915	in: Hamilton, Indiana
Father: Harley Rensch	
Mother: Elva May Evertts	

CHILDREN

I	Name: Mary Alice Cole	
	Born: January 21, 1946	in: Angola, Indiana
F	Died: 1999	in: Des Moines, Iowa
	Married: August 01, 1969	in: Steuben County, Indiana
	Spouse: Charles Smith	

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Charles Smith

Born: December 05, 1945
 Married: August 01, 1969

in: Connersville, Indiana
 in: Steuben County, Indiana

Wife: Mary Alice Cole

Born: January 21, 1946
 Died: 1999
 Father: Hershel Cole
 Mother: Virginia Dale Rensch

in: Angola, Indiana
 in: Des Moines, Iowa

CHILDREN

1	Name: Katherine Cole Smith
F	Born: May 07, 1975

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Howard Guy Rensch

Born: January 29, 1918 in: Hamilton, Indiana
 Married: December 31, 1941 in: Angola, Indiana
 Died: October 14, 1975
 Father: Harley Rensch
 Mother: Elva May Evertts

Wife: Eleanor Miller

Born: July 22, 1921 in: Angola, Indiana
 Died: May 12, 2003 in: Angola, Indiana

CHILDREN

1	Name: Marialana K. Rensch Born: November 16, 1942 in: Angola, Indiana
F	Married: Spouse: Daryl Bouck Married: March 04, 1989 Spouse: Jack Nygard
2	Name: Nadina Sue Rensch Born: August 23, 1947 in: Angola, Indiana
F	Married: September 17, 1966 in: Angola, Indiana Spouse: Neal Prince
3	Name: Rick Udell Rensch Born: March 27, 1952 in: Angola, Indiana
M	Married: Spouse: Donna Carpenter
4	Name: Celia Jane Rensch Born: February 19, 1953 in: Angola, Pleasant, Steuben, Indiana
F	Died: March 18, 1968 in: Ft. Wayne, Allen, Indiana

Husband: Neal Prince

Born: August 23, 1945
Married: September 17, 1966

in: Fort Wayne, Indiana
in: Angola, Indiana

Wife: Nadina Sue Rensch

Born: August 23, 1947
Father: Howard Guy Rensch
Mother: Eleanor Miller

in: Angola, Indiana

CHILDREN

1	Name: Nancy Sue Prince	
F	Born: December 05, 1967	
	Married: 2001	in: Fort Wayne, Allen, Indiana
	Spouse: Andrew Steven Burton	

Family Group Sheet

Husband: John L. McCollum

Born: May 02, 1921
Married: August 28, 1948

in: Williamsburg, Ohio
in: Angola, Steuben, Indiana

Wife: Betty June Rensch

Born: June 20, 1921
Father: Harley Rensch
Mother: Elva May Evertts

CHILDREN

1 M	Name: John Paul McCollum	
	Born: January 16, 1954	in: Wabash, Indiana
	Married: April 29, 1989	in: Colorado
	Spouse: Donna Berberich	
2 F	Name: Rebecca Suzanne McCollum	
	Born: August 08, 1958	in: Wabash, Indiana
	Married: June 19, 1981	in: California
	Spouse: Paul Willard Warnock	

Family Group Sheet

Husband: John Paul McCollum

Born: January 16, 1954

in: Wabash, Indiana

Married: April 29, 1989

in: Colorado

Father: John McCollum

Mother: Betty June Rensch

Wife: Donna Berberich

Born: January 20, 1959

CHILDREN

1	Name: Kaitlyn June McCollum
F	Born: March 31, 1990
2	Name: Sarah Elizabeth McCollum
F	Born: June 23, 1992

Family Group Sheet

Husband: Paul Willard Warnock

Born: March 30, 1957

Married: June 19, 1981

in: California

Wife: Rebecca Suzanne McCollum

Born: August 08, 1958

in: Des Plaines, Illinois

Father: John McCollum

Mother: Betty June Rensch

CHILDREN

1	Name: John Daniel Warnock
M	Born: November 21, 1983
2	Name: Benjamin Jubal Warnock
M	Born: May 11, 1986
3	Name: Caris Rebecca Warnock
F	Born: December 04, 1987

ALDRICH FAMILY

With this family, I am going to try to start with the immigrant ancestor and work forward in time.

George Aldrich, a tailor, and his wife Katherine Seald, arrived in America, from Derbyshire, England, November 6, 1630 or 1631. He lived the rest of his life in Massachusetts, various places where he is known to have lived being Dorchester, Braintree and Mendon, where he died March 1, 1683. Katherine Seald Aldrich died January 11, 1691. (The years in these dates may be off by a year because of the change from one calendar to another. This is interesting, but confusing, and I don't want to get into it here.) George and Katherine were part of the Puritan immigration.

A tablet in Founders' Park, Mendon, Massachusetts, lists George Aldrich as an early settler. Listed in order of settlement, George is listed second, and Ferdinando Thayer is listed first.

Although George Aldrich was a tailor by trade, he eventually owned land and, presumably, farmed. Family historians list 11 children for this family: Abel, Joseph, Mary, Mirriam, Experience, John, Sarah, Peter, Mercy, Jacob, and Martha.

George's will reads:

"In the name of God Amen-I George Aldrich being weak in body but of sound understanding dispose of my Estate as followed:

Item--I leave my house and Land and whole Estate with my beloved wife during her life.

Item--I give to my daughters Mary Aldrich, Sarah Bartlett and Mercy Randall and Martha Dunbar twelve pence apiece to be paid by my Executrix.

Item--I give all my wearing clothes to my eldest Son Joseph Aldrich.

Item--I give to my son John Aldrich all my Bookes after my wifes decease.

Item--I give to my grandchild John Aldrich son of Joseph Aldrich thirty Shillings upon condition that he lives with his grandmother during her life according to his fathers promise.

Item--I give to my youngest son Jacob Aldrich all my Lands after my wifes decease, Its hereby intended all my Land Paid out or to be Paid out with all rights and privileges thereto belonging---I make my beloved wife sole

Executrix of my whole Estate --- I make my son Jacob Aldrich overseer of this my will. Dated Mendon on the second day of November 1682. By me George Aldrich

Signed in the presence of us - Josiah Chapin, Joseph White"

Do not think that George was being unfair to his older sons; he had already given some of them, and possibly all of them land, and it appears that Jacob was the only son that stayed in Mendon.

Jacob is the only son we will follow, because it is through him that we descend.

JACOB ALDRICH (1653-1695)

Jacob Aldrich was born at Braintree, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. February 28, 1653 and died at Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, October 22, 1695. He married on June 16, 1657, Huldah Thayer, who was the daughter of Ferdinando and Huldah (Hayward) Thayer. When Jacob died, he left 10 children, ranging from 1 year to 19 years old. Our ancestor, Seth Aldrich, was 16 years old when his father died.

Jacob and Huldah's children were: Jacob, Abel, Seth, Huldah, Rachel, Sarah, David, Peter, John, Moses, Mercy, and Rachel.

SETH ALDRICH (1679-1737)

Seth Aldrich was born July 6, 1679, at Braintree, Massachusetts (the family had moved here for a time to escape the dangers of the French and Indian War), to Jacob and Huldah Thayer Aldrich. He married Deborah Hayward in Mendon, Massachusetts on September 3, 1700. Deborah's parents were Samuel and Mehitable Thompson Hayward. (I believe that Hayward is pronounced "Howard" and is sometimes spelled that way.) They lived in the part of Mendon that later became known as Uxbridge.

Seth was listed as a Quaker in 1730. He died October 15, 1737. Deborah had died earlier, and Seth had remarried to a woman whose first name was Mary. I have not been able to find a death record for Deborah or a record of his marriage to Mary, but the last child attributed to Seth and Deborah was

Noah, in 1713, and the first attributed to Seth and Mary was born in 1715. My own guess is that Deborah died, along with Noah, in 1713, and that Seth's marriage to Mary took place in 1714.

I spent some time trying to place Mary and for a brief time thought that perhaps she was a Thayer, since Samuel Thayer was the guardian of several of her children. I have found nothing to prove or disprove a Thayer connection for Mary, but I realized that Seth Aldrich, himself, had a strong Thayer connection, in that his mother, Huldah, was a Thayer. She had a brother, Samuel, who had a son, Samuel. I believe it was this son (a first cousin of Seth Aldrich) who would have been the guardian of the children.

I wonder if the fact that they were Quakers had anything to do with the lack of some of the records. I have not been able to ascertain when the family became Quaker or when they stopped being Quaker.

Following is a summary of Seth's will (which I took from THE MAYFLOWER DESCENDANT, Vol. 42, No. 2, July, 1992, pp134-135. I don't know why it was there as I have seen nothing to indicate that he was a Mayflower Descendant):

"Seth Aldrich Sen., a farmer of Uxbridge, made his will on 26 Sept 1737, and it was presented for probate on 9 Nov 1737 at Woodstock. To wife Mary he left one-third of the movables and one-half of the homestead income until son Samuel should reach maturity; then one-third of the income for life as long as she remained his widow. If wife Mary should "Se Cause" to remarry, she would receive only one-fourth of the income. Aldrich left £100 to son William, and to his son Jonathan and to "his Heirs of his Body Lawfully Begotten" he left the land purchased from Edward Bosworth and all the adjoining land; also ten acres of common and undivided land and a young mare colt. To son Samuel, he left the homestead on which the father then lived, the adjoining wood lot abutting William Robinson, a cedar swamp, and one-half the income of the homestead "as is necessary to instruct him in Reading & Wrighting & Cyphering." The rest of the income of the homestead was also to go to Samuel once he had been educated, and he was to pay his sister Elizabeth Aldrich £50. To his four daughters, viz: Sarah Richardson, Susanna Willy, Dinah Aldrich and Abigail Aldrich he left equal portions of lands adjoining the wood land known as Great Chestnut. To daughter Deborah Aldrich he left a lot of land on Rattle Snake Hill and all the

“over plus money” raised by the executor from the sale of Baiting Pond Farm after paying William his £100. He also left Deborah all the undivided land otherwise undisposed of. Two-thirds of the movables were to be equally divided among all the children except William; son Abel Aldrich and friend Moses Farnum were named as executors and instructed to sell the farm (Moses Farnum declined to administer). Son Jonathan was instructed to “carry himself well,” and Dinah’s portion was not to be distributed to her all at once. The witnesses to this will were John Spring, Joseph Aldrich, and Edmund Rawson.

The inventory of Seth Aldrich’s estate was taken by Benjamin Raft and Edmund Rawson, both of Uxbridge, and Samuel Thayer Sen. Of Mendon on 25, 26 & 29 Oct 1737. Son Jonathan’s farm was valued at £180; the “4 daughters farm” at £200; Baiting Pond Farm at £100; daughter Deborah Aldrich’s farm at £60, and the homestead, woodlot and cedar swamp at £2070.

Peter Aldrich, Benjamin Taft and Moses Farnum divided the homestead between the widow Mary and son Samuel, a minor who chose Samuel Thayer as guardian.

An agreement dated 9 Nov 1737 was signed by the heirs, viz: Seth and Jacob Aldrich, sons of the deceased; Isaac Richardson who married daughter Sarah; John Wyley who married daughter Susana; Edward Aldrich who married daughter Dinah; Samuel Thayer as guardian to Jonathan, Abigail, and Deborah Aldrich, and the widow who was guardian of Samuel and Elizabeth Aldrich, all children of the deceased. After having contested the will, they asked by this agreement that it be approved and agreed that Abel Aldrich should proceed with the distribution under certain conditions regarding covering the debts of the deceased. In case of any further dispute, they agreed to submit to friends Benjamin Taft, Jonathan Baron, Gershom Keith, and Moses Farnum, all of Uxbridge, and Seth Chapin, Jr. of Mendon, or any three of them.”

Brief Diversion from Aldrich Family History to Topic of Errors and/or Deceit in Genealogical Research

I have just got to say this somewhere, so I will do it now and get it over.

Several times I have accepted the genealogy work of other people and, later, regretted it. It is very easy to make errors in research. The fact that families used the same first names over and over is a contributing factor. Another is that many of the resources I and many others use are transcriptions of handwritten documents. The fact is that some of those original documents may have held errors in the first place. Then the transcriber, while doing a wonderful thing for other researchers, may have had difficulties in reading the handwriting or spelling of the original.

To add to the confusion, there were “professional” genealogists (there are still professional genealogists, but I hope that this paragraph no longer applies to them) who, for a sum of money, would write up a wonderful pedigree for people. If the customer wanted a Mayflower ancestor, the genealogist would find a Mayflower ancestor. If the customer wanted a royal line, or to go back to Adam and Eve, the genealogist would make it so. Some of this stuff is still available in libraries. I have wasted considerable time in following a few leads given to me by sincere researchers trying to help. Two of them led to Mayflower ancestors. (And they were wrong.) Another notable case is that Deborah Hayward’s maternal line leads back to an interesting family that was settled in New Hampshire before the Mayflower. Was that why some Aldrich researchers wanted to keep her as the mother of all of Seth’s children?

Errors abound on the Internet, too. Most of the errors are being innocently spread, of course. I use material I find on the Internet as a guide and then try to find sources to prove it.

JONATHAN ALDRICH, SR.

This Jonathan is not always referred to as “Senior,” but I add it here to distinguish him from his son Jonathan. He was born to Seth and Mary Aldrich, January 2, 1718, in Uxbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts.

I have not a lot of information on Jonathan. He was, almost certainly, a Quaker. He married Mary Wilson (or Willson) December 4, 1740. This marriage is recorded in the Smithfield Monthly Meeting (Quaker) records in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, although neither husband nor wife were residents of Rhode Island. I am assuming that there was not a Monthly Meeting held nearer their homes. There may still have been some vestiges of persecution

of Quakers.

Jonathan sold the Uxbridge farm in 1760 and moved to Killingly, Connecticut, before moving on to Guilford, Vermont.

Jonathan and Mary had the following children, all born in Uxbridge:

Mary Aldrich, born May 8, 1741

Susannah Aldrich, born November 29, 1743

Sarah Aldrich, born November 29, 1746

Jonathan Aldrich, born September 16, 1749

Meriathanina Aldrich, born May 1, May 1753

Hannah Aldrich, born April 5, 1756

Simeon Aldrich, born May 10, 1760

MARY WILSON'S FAMILY

I believe that Mary Wilson's ancestry is found in the book Ancestry and Descendants of Rev. John Wilson of Boston, Mass by Joseph Gardner Bartlett. It appears that Mary's father, Roger Wilson, was the black sheep of the family, in which most of the men studied divinity, medicine, or law, or all three. Here is a quotation from the above-mentioned book:

Roger(7) Wilson (Dr. John(6), Rev. John(5), Rev. John(4), Rev. William(3), D.D., William(2), gent., William(1)), born in Medfield, Aug. 20, 1691, was taken to Braintree in infancy by his parents. He was the first member of the family in six generations who did not acquire a liberal education and take a profession, becoming an ordinary yeoman, and never attaining even local prominence or distinction. In fact, it may be inferred from what few mentions are found of him that he was much inferior to his ancestors in character, attainments, and position in the community. In Mar., 1717, he was sued by his father-in-law, Capt. John Mills, for £18.10.0 expended by the latter to support Roger's wife and children, who had been deserted and neglected for over a year. His wife complained, "if my father had not supplied me, I and my children must have suffered, if not perished." (Suffolk Co. Court Files, No. 11591.) He resided in a house belonging to his wife's family, and gradually sold off his interest in the paternal farm; and on July 29, 1754, he sold to his son John and son-in-law Ebenezer Field his share in

the estate of his sister Alice Belcher, which is the last mention found of him, and no probate record of any estate appears. (Suffolk Co. Deeds, vol. Lixivia, fol. 112.)

He married, about 1714, Hannah (4), born Feb. 2, 1688-9, daughter of Capt John(8) and Hannah Mills of Braintree. Capt. Mills was an enterprising, wealthy, and influential man, and for many years took a leading part in the affairs of the town of Braintree, which he represented in the General Court in 1709, '10, '12, '16, '18. '21.

So many years later, we can only speculate on what had happened to make Roger Wilson the person he was. Perhaps some type of brain damage occurring before or during birth or from a childhood disease left him able to function, but not able to function at the level which would have been expected of him. At any rate, Roger and Hannah Mills Wilson had 6 children, Susanna, Mary, Hannah, Abigail, John and William.

The Wilson family is obviously proud of their ancestry and can also trace ancestry back through the Rev. Roger Newton and the Rev. Thomas Hooker.

JONATHAN ALDRICH, JR.

Jonathan, Jr. was born in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, September 16, 1749, and is said to have grown up in Killingly, Connecticut, where the family lived for some time. The location of Killingly is such that people moving from one area to another would pass through this town. Jonathan would have been of an age to serve in the Revolutionary War, but I have found no hint of his having done so. I suspect the family was still Quaker.

On April 22, 1771, Jonathan Aldrich, Jr. married Olive Marsh, daughter of Asa Marsh and Millicent Wheeler Marsh. Olive was born November 10, 1751, in Douglas, Massachusetts. Some genealogists say that Jonathan married Olive Worth, but I have found nothing to support this. I have wondered if someone looking at "Marsh" in someone else's handwriting might have misread it as "Worth." The Massachusetts vital records definitely say her name was Marsh.

Jonathan and Olive had the following children:

Roger, b. 1773

Jonathan, b. 11 June 1775

Asa, b. 1778

Simeon, b. 1777

Hannah, b. 30 May 1782

Seth, b. 9 Mar. 1784

Olive, b. 17 Dec. 1786

Amasa, b. 1 Dec. 1789

Delight, b. 1 Dec. 1789

Abigail, b. 13 Aug. 1792

Huldah, b. 29 July 1794

SIMEON ALDRICH (1777-1860)

Simeon Aldrich was born April 30, 1777 (or May 1, 1777), in Guilford, Windham County, Vermont, to Jonathan and Olive Marsh Aldrich. His wife was Penelope, called Nelly. Her surname is most often given as Granger, but I have known at least one researcher who believed she was a Gaines. I have not found records to confirm either name. Simeon died September 27, 1860 in DeKalb County, Indiana. Penelope died September 20, 1836, also in DeKalb County. They are buried in Eddy Cemetery. In this plot, there is also "Lucy, wife of Simeon Aldrich, Sen., d. June 28, 1850, age 50 years."

Following is biographical information from Volume III of The George Aldrich Genealogy, compiled by Alvin James Aldrich:

Simeon Aldrich and his family went by wagon to the Hudson River, thence to Lake Erie and by water to Toledo, and from there by canal to Defiance, Ohio. Mr. Aldrich had been a wealthy farmer in New England, and on starting west, stored his money in gold coins in a chest. At Toledo, while transferring the stuff from the ship to a lighter, the chest of gold was dropped and broken and the gold went to the bottom of the lake, but, after an anxious time, was restored to its owner.

Mr. Aldrich's two sons, Simeon and Terry, had come west sometime before this and had spent four years in Williams County, Ohio. Soon afterwards, the Houlton family came across from the county to DeKalb County, Indiana, being the first settlers here, and in 1834 the Aldrich boys followed.

These sons met Mr. McClure and the Aldrich family at Defiance, Ohio and with ox teams were four days coming across the country to Troy township, locating four miles east of Hamilton. There Mr. Aldrich entered land for all his children giving each of them a good start in life, and there his wife got lost in a swamp a year later, her death occurring from the effects of the exposure. Subsequently Mr. Aldrich returned to Vermont, where he married and brought his wife back to the frontier home, and here her death occurred about eight months later. Mrs. Olive McClure received from her father eighty acres of land and a house, each of her brothers being given one thousand dollars each.

Mr. Aldrich who had been a stock breeder in the east, came here in order to secure larger opportunities for the members of his family. Things were not very encouraging here at that time and it is related that a letter written him in 1836 from Vermont was sent to his nearest post office, LaGrange Center, about forty miles from his home. From about 1848 to about 1855 he carried the United States mail from Defiance to Lagrange, thence to Cold Water, Mich. And to the neighborhoods between these points, riding horseback over roadless prairies and fordging(sic) unbridged streams. He bought and sold farms frequently, owning a large number of them and was really more of a business man than a farmer.

This book does not give the maiden name of Lucy, the second wife, but says that she was "Mrs. Lucy Jackman" when she married Simeon.

In History of DeKalb County Cemeteries by Dorothy A. Ditmars, April 18, 1924, appears this information about Eddy Cemetery:

The land formerly was taken from the Willard Eddy farm. One acre of ground was purchased from George Skinner by Simeon Aldrich and laid out in lots, which were sold at one dollar each. This was probably about 1830. There are stones there that record as far back as 1839. . . . The preceding account was given by Mr. Willard Eddy of Troy Township who is still living.

It would appear that a group of people from Guilford, Vermont, settled in Troy Township, DeKalb County, Indiana very early in its history. The 1840 census lists Simeon Aldrich, Sr., Simeon Aldrich, Jr., David Aldrich and Roger Aldrich, as well as Asa P. Hains (Haynes, Grandmother Elva Evertts Rensch's great grandfather). I believe Roger Aldrich to be the son of

Simeon's older brother, Roger.

The number of Simeons and Davids in DeKalb County alone is almost mind-boggling, and the Aldriches also used these name frequently in New England. When I was a child, our family dentist was Dr. Simeon Aldrich, who was a cousin of some degree.

The children that I currently have listed for Simeon and Penelope are as follows:

Simeon Aldrich, Jr.

Isaac Aldrich

Philena Aldrich

Aurelia Aldrich

David Aldrich

Olive Aldrich

DAVID ALDRICH (1817-1881)

David Aldrich was born to Simeon and Penelope Aldrich, March 29, 1817, in Guilford, Windham County, Vermont. In the History of Steuben County, his biography is under the name, David W. Aldrich, with no clue as to what the W. represented. When still a very young man, he moved with his family to Troy Township, DeKalb County, Indiana. On February 14, 1838, David married Mary Ann Jackman. On the same day, Mary Ann's brother, Richard Jackman, married David's sister, Aurelia Aldrich.

Mary Ann Jackman was born in Richland County, Ohio, to Robert and Phebe (Phoebe) Vail Jackman, September 16, 1818.

David and Mary Ann had the following children:

Christianna, who died in infancy

Nancy married Cox

Lydia married Jacob Baker

Phebe (Phoebe) married William Rensch

Aurelia married Vanzile

Olive, married James Campbell

THE JACKMAN FAMILY

Mary Ann Jackman, wife of David W. Aldrich, was born September 16, 1818, to Robert Jackman and Phebe (Phoebe) Vail Jackman.

Family tradition says that Robert Jackman was born in Ireland, in 1782, and that he came to the United States with his family when he was about 5 years old. The family finally settled in Jefferson County, Ohio. In 1808, Robert Jackman married Phebe Vail, daughter of Samuel and Lydia Moor (Moore) Vail, who had been born in New Jersey.

Robert and Phebe Vail Jackman were the first settlers in Richland Township, Steuben County, Indiana, in 1836. Phebe died in 1870 at the age of 81, and is buried in Eddy Cemetery. Robert died in 1851 while on a visit to his former home in Ohio. His burial site is not known.

Robert and Phebe Jackman had twelve children, three of whom died in infancy or early childhood, Amy, Phebe and Susanna. The others are as follows (not necessarily in birth order):

Jane, first husband Daniel Thurstin, second Henry Sanders

Henry

Richard

Samuel

Mary Anne, m. David Aldrich

Robert (never married)

Lydia (husband's surname Hill)

Margaret, married first George Eagle, second James Johnson

Christina, married Marvin Gordon

There were many Jackmans in Jefferson County, Ohio, and I have not been able to sort them out to the point where I can name Robert Jackman's parents or siblings. Tradition holds that the Jackmans were of Germanic origin before they moved to Ireland.

THE VAIL FAMILY

This name is sometimes spelled Veal, Veale, Vayle, Viall, etc. My source for

much of this material is Genealogy of Some of the Vail Family Descended From Thomas Vail At Salem Massachusetts 1640 by Wm. Penn Vail. The Vails were a Quaker family, and religious persecution was probably the reason for their migration to America, and for some of their subsequent moves. For a time, there were at least two Vail men in Salem, Massachusetts, Jeremiah and Thomas, and both of them moved to Long Island. Jeremiah went to Southold and Thomas to Southampton. Both men were blacksmiths by trade.

Quoting from the above mentioned book: *The first mention we have of Thomas (1) Vail is that he and his wife, Sarah, came from England to Salem, Mass., in 1640; moved to Southampton, L.I., in 1647 with Thomas Pell and others.*

In 1660, Thomas Vail moved to Westchester County, New York, He appears to have been an influential man, because he served as Magistrate. He died sometime between May 3, 1687 and December 15, 1688. His wife's name was Sarah, possibly Sarah Wentworth.

His son, Samuel, is our ancestor. Samuel Vail married Elizabeth (probably Hunt). They had six children: Samuel, Martha, John (often referred to as "the Quaker Preacher" to distinguish him from the other John Vails), Daniel, Arthur and Thomas. After Samuel's death, Elizabeth remarried to a Mr. Gach, and after his death, John Griffen.

Samuel and Elizabeth's eldest son, Samuel Vail, born December 21, 1678, at Westchester, New York, died June 26, 1733, at Westchester. His first wife was Abigail, who died in 1724; his second wife was Sarah Farrington. The children of Samuel and Abigail were: John, Stephen, Samuel, Phebe, Thomas, Isaac, Joseph, Abigail, Mathew, Sarah and Elizabeth. Samuel and Sarah were the parents of Matthew, Sarah and Elizabeth.

You can see that the same first names were being used over and over, and you may depend on it that all the other Vail lines were using the same names.

I am including Samuel Vail's extensive will here:

The nineteenth day of June in the Seventh year of our Sovereign Lord King George the Second, Anno Domini Seventeen hundred and thirty three. I Samuel Vail of the Burroughstown of West Chester in the County of West

Chester and Province of New York, Yeoman, being sick and weak in body but of Sound and Disposing mind and memory, Do make this my Last Will and Testament in Manner and Form Following, that is to say. First and principally, I commit my Soul to Almighty God my Creator hoping to obtain Salvation through the Merits of my Saviour Jesus Christ, and my Body to the earth to be decently buried by my Executors, and I do Devise bequeath give and dispose of such worldly Estate as God in mercy hath bestowed upon me as follows,

"First, I give and devise to my son John Vail his heirs and assigns forever All my one hundred and thirty seven acres and a half of land near Green Brook in Sommerset County in the Province New Jersey which land he is now in possession of. Also I give and bequeath to my said son John Vail, his Executors Administrators and assigns my Negro boy Dick. Also I give and devise to my son Stephen Vail his heirs and assigns forever all that my one hundred and thirty seven acres and a half acre near Green Brook in Sommerset County in the aforesaid Province of New Jersey which land is now in his possession. Also I give and bequeath to my said son Stephen Vail his Executors administrators and assigns my Negro boy Toney.

"Also I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Sarah Vail her Executors administrators and assigns forever the legacy left her by her Father Matthew Farrington late deceased. Also I give to my said Wife during her Widowhood and no longer, the use of the best room in my house and the use of my Negro woman Hannah and her youngest Child and after my said wife shall marry again or dye, I give the said Negro woman Hannah to my son Thomas Vail his Executors administrators and assigns forever. Also I give and bequeath to my daughter Phebe Turner her Executors administrators and assigns forever my Negro young woman called Ihell.

"Also in consideration, That my said son Thomas Vail shall undertake immediately after my decease to pay all my lawful debts and funeral charges and to maintain the family I shall leave for two years they assisting him with their labour, I give to my said Thomas the use of all my lands and meadows with the buildings and appurtenances thereto belonging (the room given to my wife during her widowhood excepted) and of all my privileges in the sheep pasture situated in West Chester above said and the use of all the remainder of my personal Estate for the full term of two years after my decease. But if my said son Thomas shall refuse to undertake and give such security for the payment of my debts, funeral charges and to support my family two years after my decease as my Executors shall approve of, then I hereby order my Executors to make use of said lands, meadows and

premises and personal estate to the best advantage they can and our of the profits thereof for two years after my decease to support my family and to apply the remainder towards paying my debts.

"Also I give to my beloved wife Sarah I full of all her claim and title of Dower of in and to all or any part of my Estate on(e) third part of the clear profits of all my lands and meadows in West Chester aforesaid to commence at the end of two years after my decease for so long a time as she shall remain my widow and no longer. Also I hereby give and bequeath at the end of two years after my de3cease to my son Thomas Vail his Executors administrators and assigns my Negro boy Lewis and bed and furniture he lays on. Also I hereby give and bequeath at the end of two years after my decease to my daughter Abigail Vail her Executors administrators assigns my Negro girl Jenny. Also from and after the end of two years from and after my decease, I give the use of one third part of the remainder of my personal Estate not hereinbefore disposed (of) to my wife during her widowhood and no longer, and after my wife shall marry again or dye I give and bequeath the said one third part of the remainder of my personal estate to my daughter Elizabeth Vail her Executors administrators and assigns.

"Also at the end of two years after my decease I give bequeath to my so Thomas Vail his Executors administrators and assigns a pair of Oxen, three Cows and two of my best Horses.

"Also at the end of two years after my decease I give and devise to my son Isaac Vail his heirs and assigns forever, he paying yearly to my wife while she shall remain my widow the one third part of the clear profits thereof the following Lands and Salt Meadows in West Chester aforesaid (to wit, the land I bought of Thomas Jennings eight acres of woodland joining to a highway near Thomas Nicholl's land and four acres of Salt Meadow part of the Patrick Meadow and joining to the Meadow of Stephen Delancy).

"Also at the end of two years after my decease and from and after that time I hereby give and devize to Josiah Hunt and Moses Mullinex of West Chester above said their heirs and assigns forever all the remainder of my Lands and Meadows and Priviledges in the Sheep pasture of West Chester aforesaid. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Lands Meadows and Priviledges with their Appurtenances to the said Josiah Hunt and Moses Mullenex their heirs and assigns in trust to and for the uses hereafter mentioned and to and for no other use intent or purpose whatsoever, that is to say if my son Thomas Vail his heirs, Executors administrators shall within three years after my decease pay such part of my debts as the profits of my Estate for two years next after my decease shall not discharge and shall pay to my son Joseph

Vail when he shall attain to the age of twenty one years for the use of the said Joseph his heirs Executors administrators and assigns the full sum of one hundred pounds New York money. AND also shall pay to my son Matthew Vail for the use of his Executors administrators and assigns when he shall attain to the age of twenty one years the full sum of one other hundred pounds New York money: Then in such case to and for the only proper use and behoof of my said son Thomas Vail his heirs and assigns forever and to and for no other use and purpose whatsoever: But if my son Thomas Vail shall neglect or refuse to pay my debts that shall be unpaid at the end of two years after my decease as aforesaid or if my said Thomas Vail his heirs, executors administrators shall neglect or refuse to pay to my son Joseph Vail when he shall attain the age of twenty one years one hundred pounds and to my son Matthew one other hundred pounds New York money when he shall attain to the age of twenty one years, or any part of parcel of said several sums of money, Then in trust to sell the Lands Meadows and premises aforesaid with the buildings and appurtenances thereto belonging or if my said son Thomas Vail his heirs Executors or administrators shall not pay yearly to my wife so long as she shall remain my widow the one third part of the clear profits of the said premises, Then in trust to sell the same and out of the money arising from the sale thereof to pay the remainder of my debts, to my sons Joseph and Matthew their respective Legacies to my wife reasonable satisfaction for the third of the profits of said premises during her widowhood, the charges of the sale and the remainder thereof to my said son Thomas his heirs Executors or administrators or assigns. "Lastly, I nominate and appoint Joseph Hunt and Moses Mullinex and the Survivor of them to be Executors or Executor of my Last Will and Testament."

This will tells us that Samuel Vail was a prosperous man - 3 farms, livestock, at least 7 slaves. It also tells us that he was or had been a weaver, because he leaves his loom and tackling to his son, Isaac. According to the author of the above mentioned book, it was not until much later that the Quakers took a decided stand against slavery.

JOHN VAIL

John Vail, eldest son of the younger Samuel Vail, was born at Westchester, New York, April 21, 1708. He was often called John Vail, Jr. to distinguish him from his uncle John. He died May 17, 1754, at Plainfield, New Jersey, and is buried at Green Brook, New Jersey. In December, 1731, John married Margaret Laing. I do not know the date of Margaret's death, but John later married her sister, Mary Laing. John and Margaret were the parents of Samuel, John, Daniel, Isaac, David, Jacob, Abraham, and Benjamin. John and Mary were the parents of Joseph and Christiana.

John Vail died between May 1, 1754 and June 4, 1754. The first son, Samuel had already died, so much of the estate was divided between the widow, Mary, and the eight surviving sons. One slave, Dick, was mentioned: "My Negro fellow to wit Dick I leave to his liberty to live with any of my children or where he will." Perhaps this is the same slave who was left to John by his father.

ISAAC VAIL

Isaac (5) Vail was born November 27, 1737, to John (4) Vail and Margaret Laing Vail. (The 5 and 4 refer to the number of their generation; this is an attempt to keep confusion at bay). Isaac married Rachel Compton. Isaac and Rachel had four children: Samuel, James, Sarah and Margaret.

An abstract of Isaac's will (taken from Volume 4 of the Calendar of New Jersey Wills) is as follows: *Vail, Isaac, of Bernards Twsp., Somerset Co.; will of. Wife, Rachel, £100. Rest of personal and real to be sold and given to my children, Samuel, James, Sarah Vail and Margaret Vail. Executors - my father-in-law, James Compton, and my brother, Daniel Vail. Witnesses - John Vail, William Cross, James Boylan. Proved April 20, 1770.*

1770, April 24. Inventory, £171, made by Jeremiah Sutton and Nathaniel Ayers.

Isaac's life was very short, and his estate was very small. It appears that Rachel's second husband was Nathaniel Woodard, or Woodward. The date of their marriage license was November 21, 1773. I have not found much written about this family. There was a Nathaniel Woodward taxed as a non

resident in Richland County, Ohio, in 1825.

SAMUEL VAIL

I have very little information on Isaac's son, Samuel, beyond the fact that he married Lydia Moore, also from New Jersey. There is an interesting note added to the published genealogy of Moses Vail (this is not our line, but the names are so similar, that I suspect that Moses was a brother of Thomas and Jeremiah). A John Vail had written to the compiler, and one of the things he mentioned was that he was the grandson of the Rev. Samuel Vail of Jefferson County, Ohio, "to which place he came from Virginia about 1800." Samuel had gone from New Jersey to Virginia when he was very young.

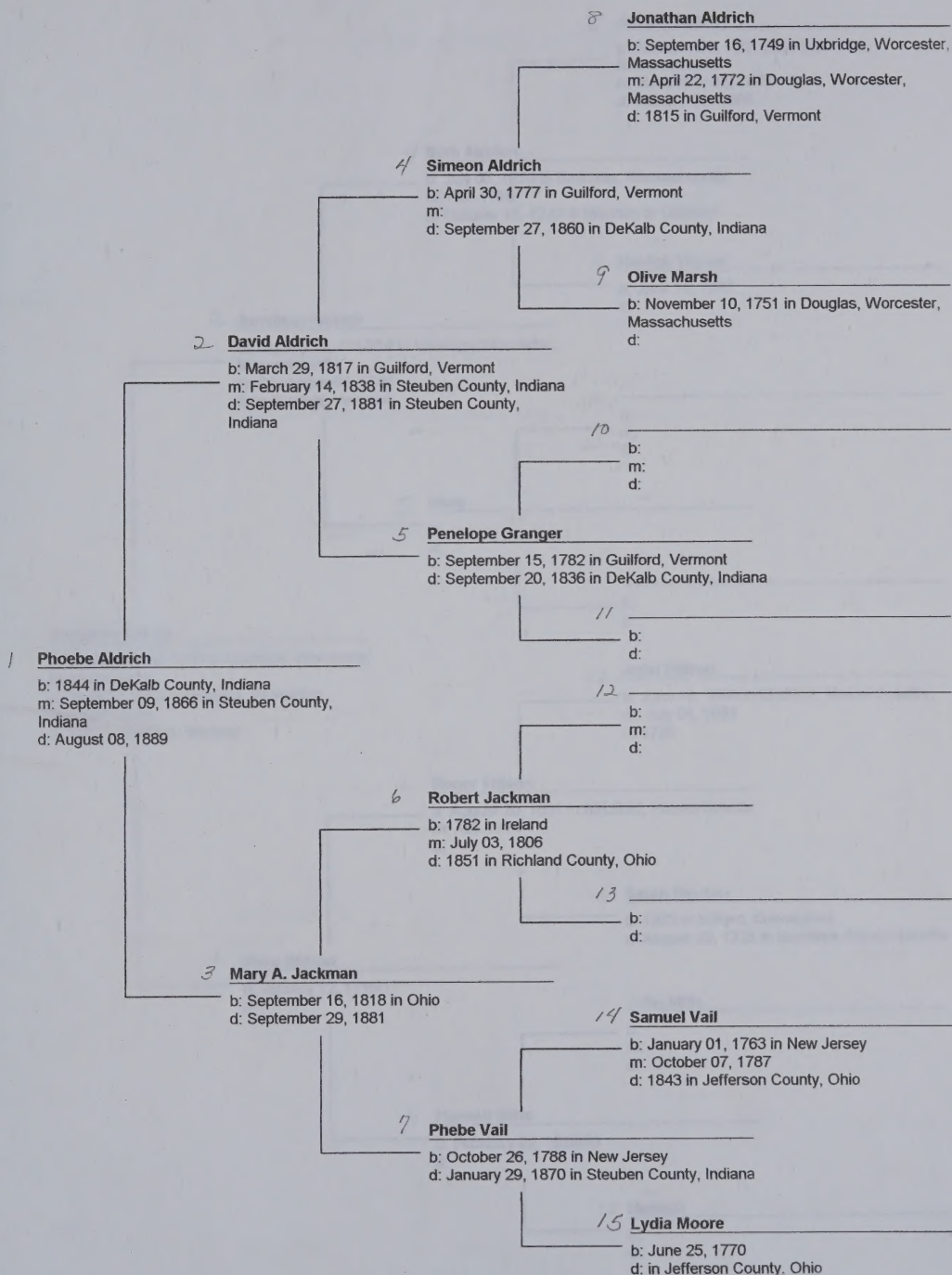
This sort of information that needs to be considered in research, but not necessarily taken at face value. Since Lydia Moore was mentioned as Samuel's wife, I think we can safely accept that this is our Samuel. One thing that anyone working on this needs to remember is that in 1800, Virginia still included the area we know as West Virginia.

A couple of researchers have listed the children of Samuel Vail and Lydia Moore on Rootsweb.com, as follows: Phebe (our ancestress), Jacob, John, Amy, Sarah, Isaac, Daniel and Joel.

ODDS AND ENDS

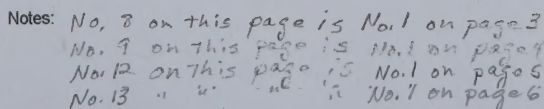
There are a lot of surnames yet to be researched in this line, such as, Laing, Compton, Moore, Martin, Shotwell, etc. I do not believe that I am anywhere near ready to write on these families, but you may find some of these surnames on the charts. When I began using Family Treemaker, I was determined to input only those names that I was positive were correct (and even they sometimes turned out to be wrong), but that is no longer my policy. What is in the database depends on whether or not I am caught up with my notes.

Standard Pedigree Tree

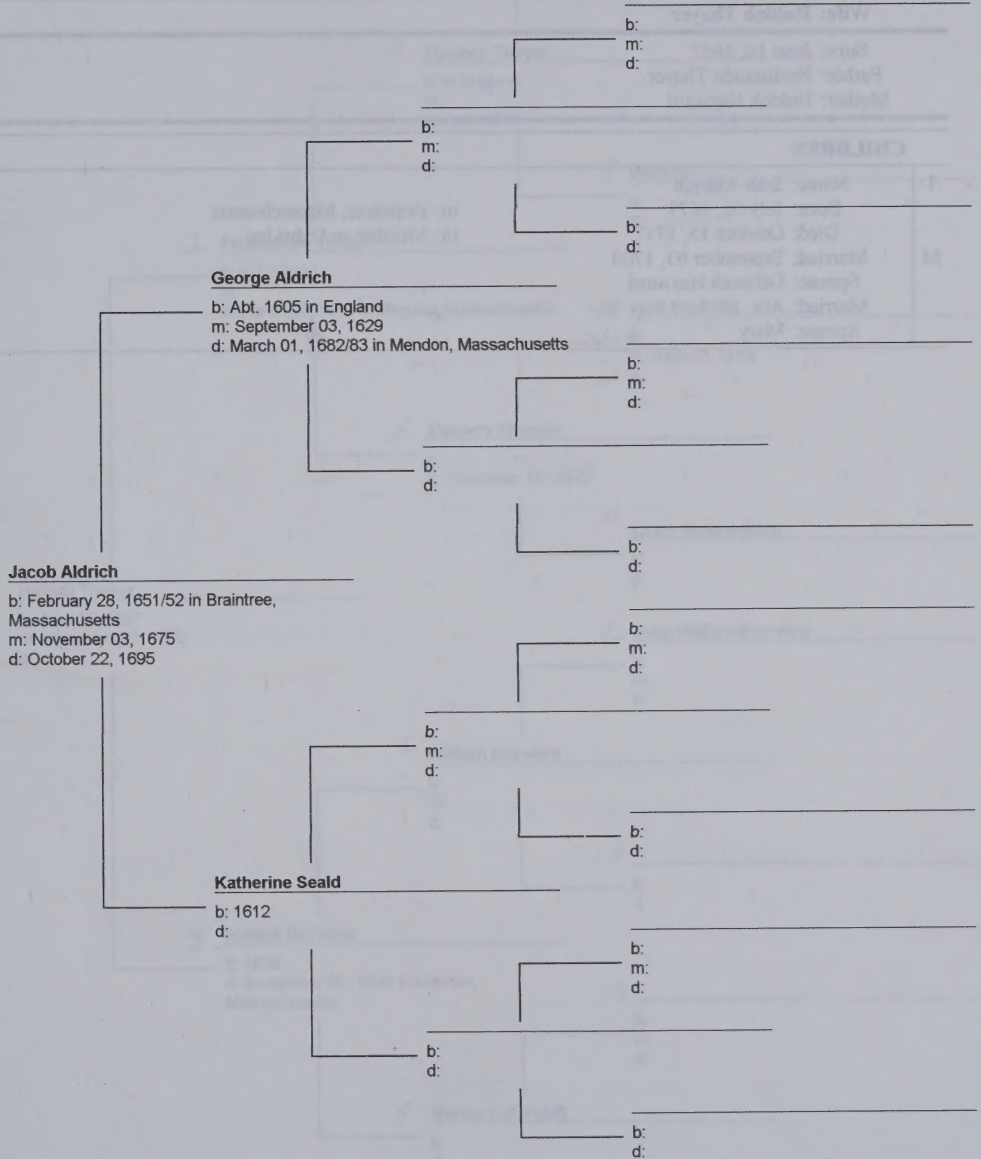


Notes:

No. 8 on this page is No. 1 on Page 2
 No. 14 on this page is No. 1 on Page 7



Standard Pedigree Tree



Notes:

Husband: Jacob Aldrich

Born: February 28, 1651/52
Married: November 03, 1675
Died: October 22, 1695
Father: George Aldrich
Mother: Katherine Seald

in: Braintree, Massachusetts

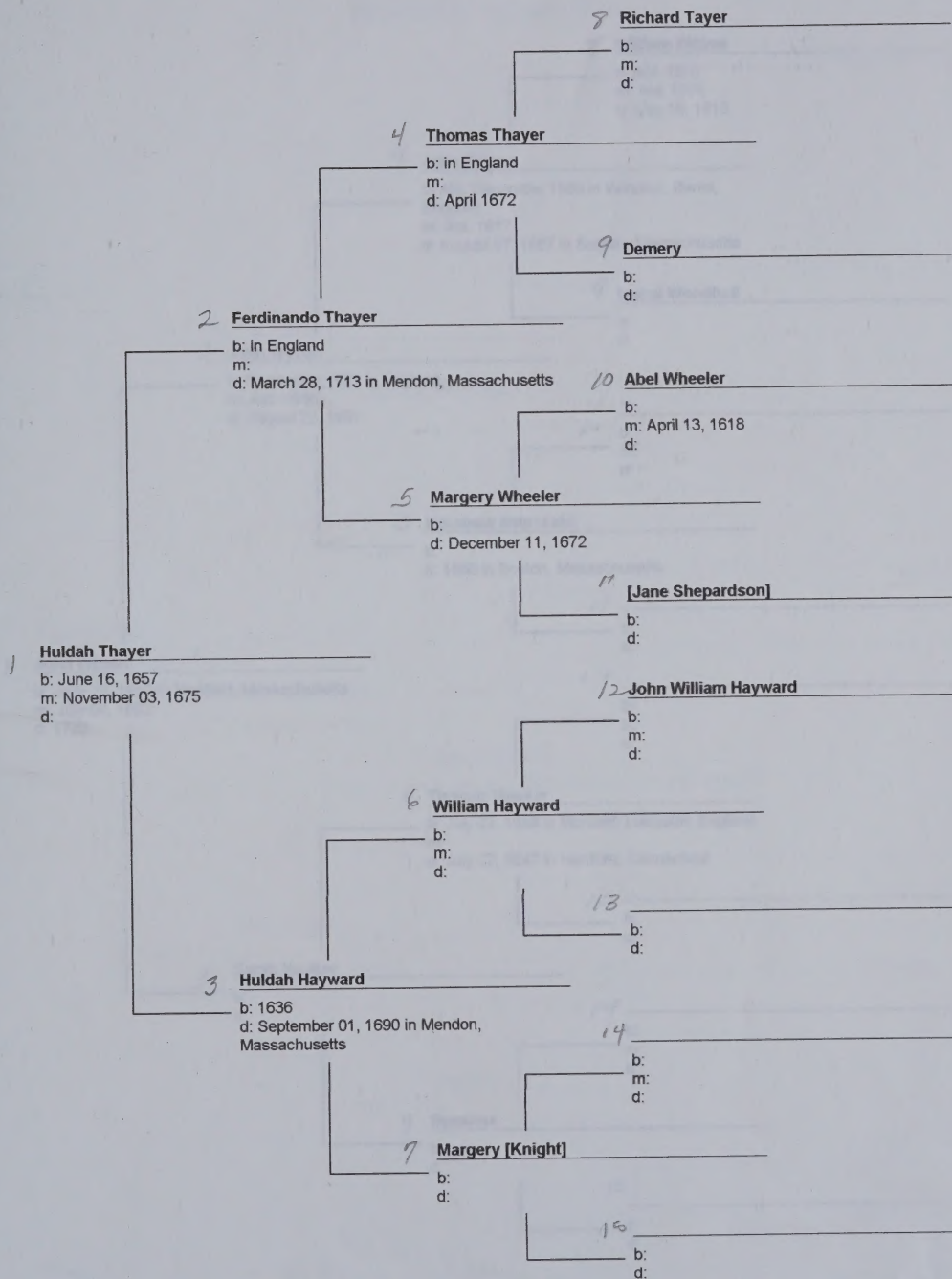
Wife: Huldah Thayer

Born: June 16, 1657
Father: Ferdinando Thayer
Mother: Huldah Hayward

CHILDREN

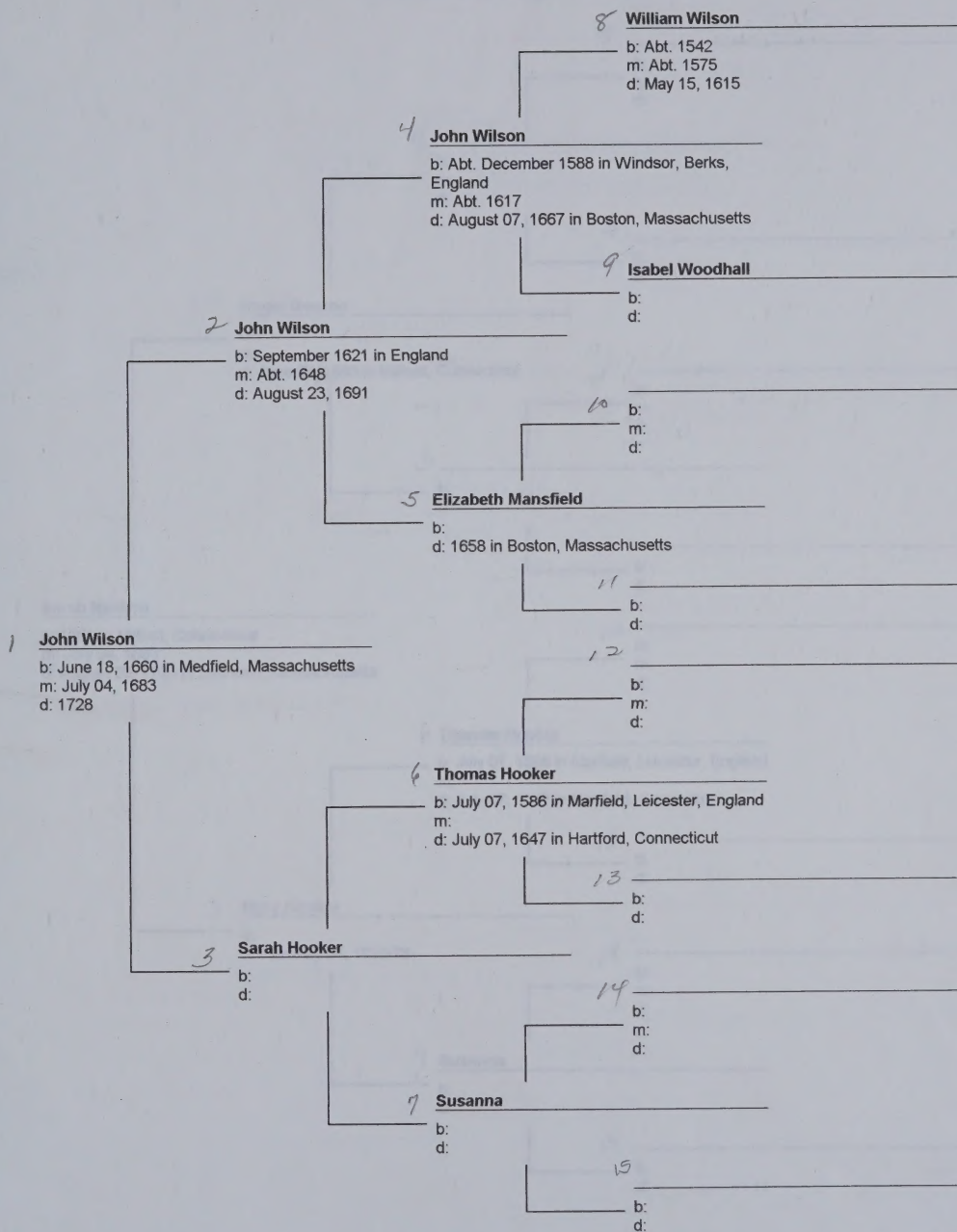
I	Name: Seth Aldrich	
	Born: July 06, 1679	in: Braintree, Massachusetts
	Died: October 15, 1737	in: Mendon or Uxbridge
M	Married: September 03, 1700	
	Spouse: Deborah Hayward	
	Married: Abt. 1715	
	Spouse: Mary	

Standard Pedigree Tree



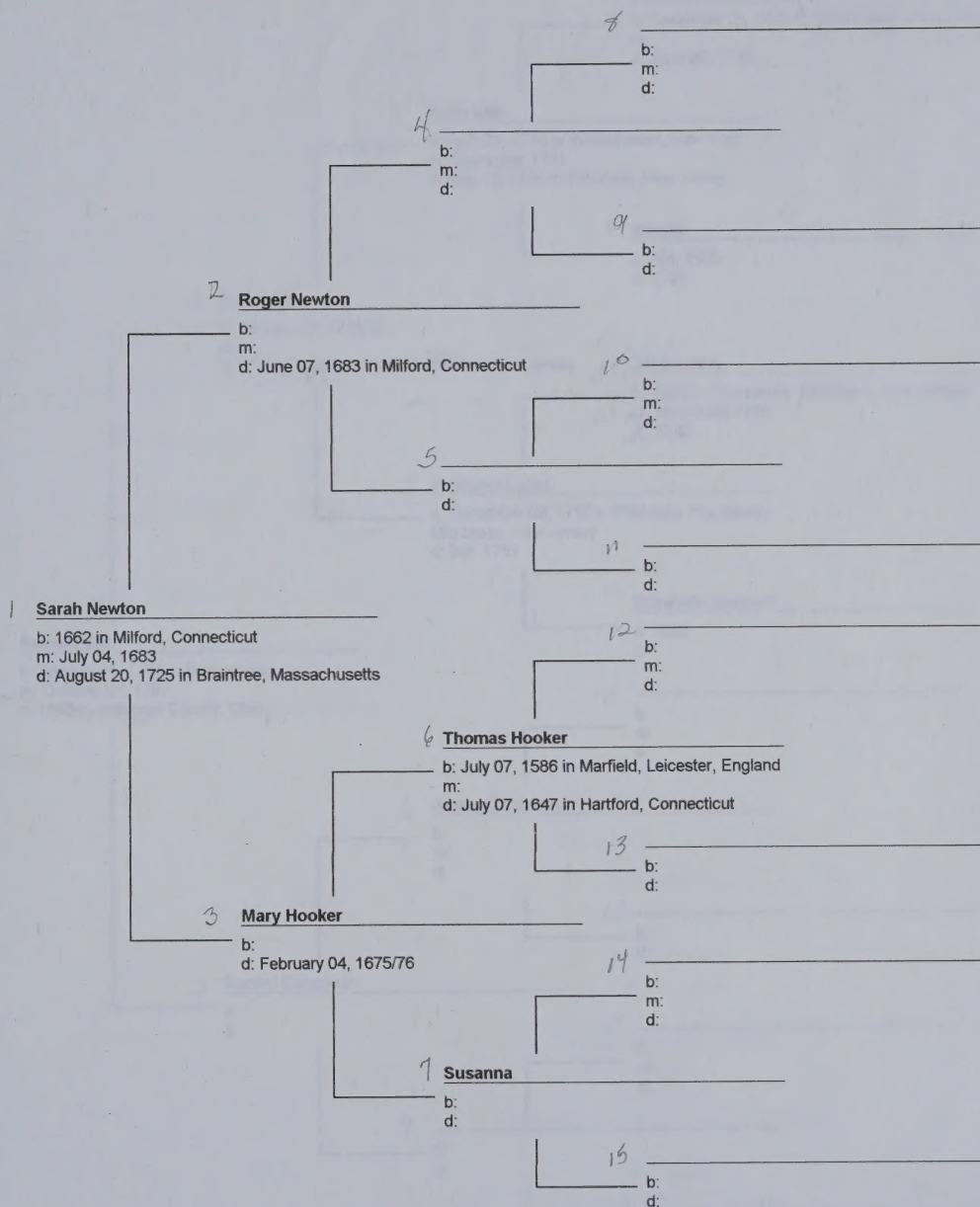
Notes:

Standard Pedigree Tree



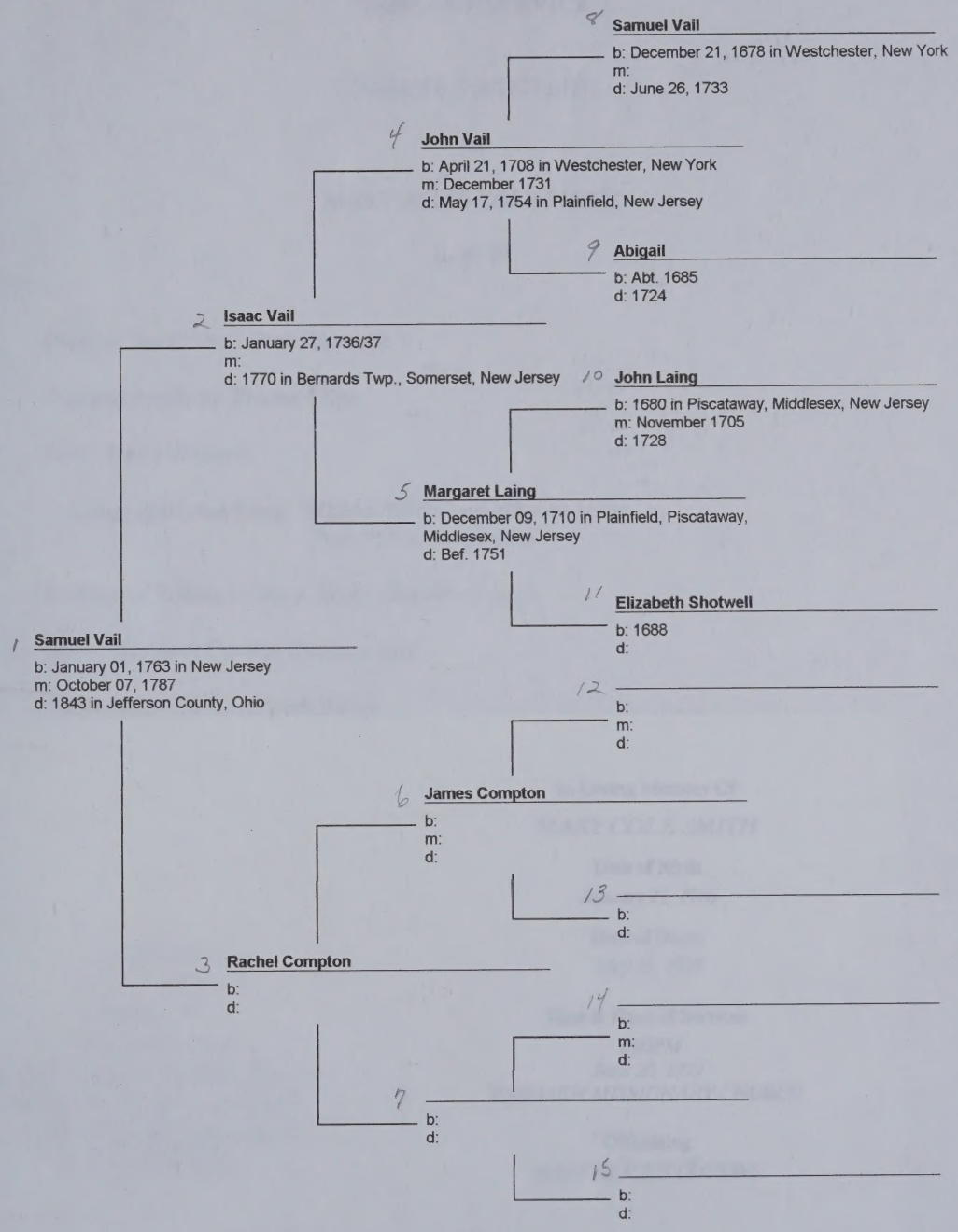
Notes:

Standard Pedigree Tree



Notes:

Standard Pedigree Tree



Notes:



In Appreciation . . .

On behalf of the family, we wish to express appreciation for your many kindnesses evidenced in thought and deed, and for your attendance at the service.

Feller Funeral Home
Ron and Karen Feller
Dave and Laurie Feller



*May the road
rise up to meet you.
May the wind
be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face. And
rain fall soft upon your fields. And until
we meet again May God hold you in the
hollow of His hand.*

In Loving Memory Of
MARY COLE SMITH

Date of Birth
January 21, 1946

Date of Death
May 15, 1999

Time & Place of Services
2:00PM
June 20, 1999
FAIRVIEW MISSIONARY CHURCH

Officiating
MARY ALICE'S COUSINS

Arrangements Handled By
FELLER FUNERAL HOME
WATERLOO, Indiana

ORDER OF SERVICE

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE

of

MARY ALICE COLE SMITH

6-20-99

Prelude: Becki McCollum Warnock

Opening Prayer by Florian Cripe

Solo: Becki Warnock

Congregational Song: What a Friend we have in Jesus
Page 302 In the Hymnal

Reading of Tribute to Mary Alice: Charlene Rensch

Duet: Florian & Carolyn Rensch Cripe

Violin Solo: Nadina Rensch Prince

Singing of God's Word and Words of Comfort and Joy
Florian Cripe

:Solo: Becki McCollum Warnock

Violin Solo: Nadina Rensch Prince

Virginia will greet you in the Narthex

